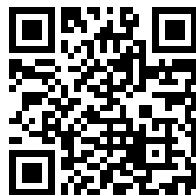

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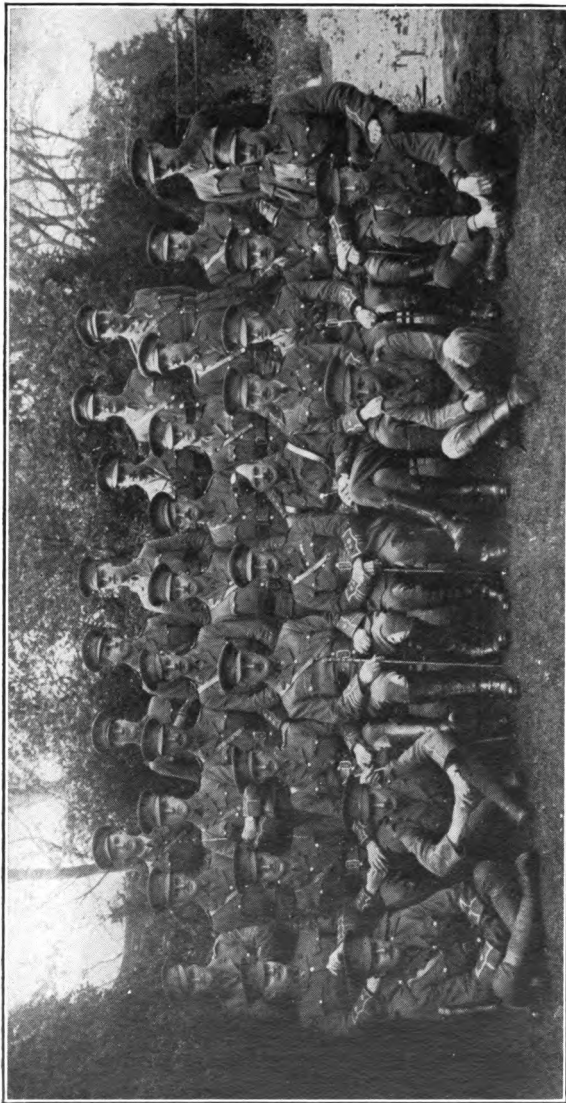
THE HISTORY
OF THE 1/5TH BATTALION
THE
SUFFOLK REGIMENT







THE HISTORY OF THE 1/5th BATTALION
THE SUFFOLK REGIMENT



OFFICERS AT THETFORD, 1915.

*Back Row (left to right).—*Lieut. N. Rooke, Lieut. E. D. Wolton, Lieut. A. S. Parker, 2nd Lieut. G. K. Alston, 2nd Lieut. B. W. Cockell, 2nd Lieut. T. S. Hinnell, Lieut. H. G. Kilner.

*Second Row.—*Capt. J. R. Rowley, Capt. A. Dennis, Lieut. H. C. Wolton, Capt. R. M. Jackson, Lieut. G. G. Warnes, 2nd Lieut. H. C. Nutter, Capt. G. W. Ledward, 2nd Lieut. O. B. Wolton, 2nd Lieut. E. M. Ashton, 2nd Lieut. B. A. Keen, 2nd Lieut. E. J. Kendle.

*Third Row.—*Lieut. and Q.M. A. J. Wills, Capt. C. M. Oliver, Capt. G. Lacy Scott, Major H. J. Hargrave, Lieut.-Col. W. M. Armes, T.D., Capt. and Adjutant H. M. Lawrence, Major R. H. Kendle, T.D., Capt. B. E. Oliver, Lieut. H. F. Everett, R.A.M.C., Lieut. T. J. Catchpole.

*Front Row.—*2nd Lieut. I. E. Haynes, 2nd Lieut. G. Kilner, Lieut. F. G. Wilson, 2nd Lieut. C. W. Cory.

THE HISTORY OF THE
1/5TH BATTALION
“The Suffolk Regiment”

COMPILED BY
CAPT. A. FAIR, M.C.
AND
CAPT. E. D. WOLTON

WITH A FOREWORD
BY
FIELD-MARSHAL VISCOUNT ALLENBY, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.

London
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, LTD.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

THE compilers of this record desire to acknowledge the generous assistance given by many members and friends of the Battalion in carrying out what to them has been a labour of love. They are proud to be able to include a generous Foreword from their beloved Chief, Lord Allenby, whose brilliant strategy brought the Palestine campaign to so dramatic a close. They also wish to thank the O.C. 2nd Battalion The Suffolk Regiment for permission to publish extracts from the History of the 12th (The Suffolk) Regiment; Major T. Sheppard for his help in regard to Chapter I; Lieut.-Col. W. M. Campbell, D.S.O., M.C., and Capt. G. Kilner, M.C., for the maps reproduced; Major H. Copinger Hill, M.C., Capt. C. M. Fyson, and the Directors of the Australian War Museum for the loan of photographs and blocks, and Capt. C. J. Norton for revising and arranging for the publication of the History in its present form. Chapters I-IV were written by Capt. E. D. Wolton; Chapters V-VIII by Capt. A. Fair, M.C.

THOSE interested in the 54th Division are reminded that a book entitled "With the 1/5th Essex in the East," by Lieut.-Col. T. Gibbons, D.S.O., has been published by Benham & Co., Colchester.

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FOREWORD

This History of the 1/5
Battalion, Suffolk Regiment, has
been compiled by a Committee of
Officers, most of whom - if not
all - were in the Battalion during
the War. They are to be con-
gratulated on their work.

The record deals lightly with
dangers and hardships; but there
runs through the book a deep
note of unselfish patriotism,
of devotion to duty, and of re-
verence for those who made the
Great Sacrifice.

The book, though primarily
written for members of the Regiment,

will be read eagerly by the General Public. Gallipoli, Gaza, Jerusalem are names that stir the blood; and the campaigns that centre on them have an interest that is magnetic.

Chapter I makes reference to the South African War. During the operations therein described I was often in close touch with the Suffolk Regiments, and I well remember many of the situations and incidents mentioned.

In the French War, the 1/5 Suffolks came under my command.

in 1917 - as a unit in the
163rd Brigade of the 54th Division.
They took a prominent part in the
capture of Gaza, the pursuit to
Jaffa, the fighting about St. Ulrich,
the break through in the Plain of
Sharon, and the advance to
Beirut.

After the Armistice, the
Batalion returned to Egypt, and
demobilisation began. Soon,
however, the Troubles of 1919 broke
out; and demobilisation was
suspended. Then the war-worn
troops were set the difficult

and Thankless Task of restoring
civil order. This work, calling
for great tact and self-restraint,
was carried out ably and effec-
-tively.

It speaks well for the high
tone of the 1/5 Suffolk Regt, at
the end, despite stress & toil of
war, they had lost none of their
smartness on parade. I remember
the good impression made by the
Guard of Honour which received
me - on my return from a flying visit
to Paris - in March 1915; and I

recall the fine appearance of
the Battalion on the occasion of my
last inspection in May of that
year.

No finer body of men fought
in the War; and these valiant
sons of Suffolk have left a
memory that all who knew
them will cherish while life lasts.

Attest
T. A.

Cairo.
10th May/23.
—

"SPEED THE PLOUGH."

CHAPTER I.

THE PRE-WAR HISTORY OF THE BATTALION.

THIS record is mainly an account of the part played by the 1/5th Battalion The Suffolk Regiment (T.F.) in the Great War, but it may be of interest to recall the causes which led to its formation in 1859 and its history up to August 1914.

For several years previous to 1859 a feeling of uneasiness had been prevalent throughout the country, chiefly owing to the fear of invasion by Napoleon III, who, it was thought, wished to avenge Waterloo. The badly conducted Crimean War (1854-56) and the Indian Mutiny (1857) increased the apprehension, and persistent allegations that the national defences were inadequate led to a widespread volunteer movement.

In 1859 the War Office sanctioned the formation of Volunteer Rifle Corps, of which no fewer than twenty-one were raised in Suffolk.

They were organized as three Administrative Battalions, and the 1st Administrative Battalion, commanded by Lieut.-Col. J. H. F. Anstruther, who had seen service in the Peninsular War, was the direct ancestor of the 1/5th Suffolks. It was distributed as follows:—the 6th Suffolk Volunteer Rifle Corps at Stowmarket, the 10th at Eye (two companies), 11th Sudbury, 13th Bury St. Edmunds (two companies), 16th Hadleigh, 18th Wickhambrook, 19th Brandon, and the 20th first at Mildenhall, but after about 1870 at Newmarket—a total of ten companies. In 1880 the Administrative Battalions were abolished, and the 1st Administrative Battalion became the 6th (West Suffolk) Rifle Volunteer Battalion,

A

which in 1886 became the 2nd Volunteer Battalion The Suffolk Regiment.

On the 10th of October 1899 the Boer War broke out, and during the first few months we suffered many reverses. These had the effect of rousing the country into action and everywhere there was a rush to volunteer. On the 11th of January 1900 information was received at Bury St. Edmunds that thirty volunteers from the 2nd Volunteer Battalion were required to form part of the Suffolk Volunteer Company, which was being raised for active service in South Africa. These, together with the active service volunteers from the 1st Volunteer Battalion (East Suffolk), the 3rd Volunteer Battalion (Cambridgeshire), and the 4th Volunteer Battalion (Cambridge University), mobilized and trained at Bury St. Edmunds. Capt. G. F. Whitmore (3rd Vol. Bn.) was in command, and with him were Lieut. P. Hudson (3rd Vol. Bn.) and Lieut. G. H. Mason (4th Vol. Bn.). This Company left for South Africa on Sunday morning Februray 11th, and the weather which prevailed was enough to freeze the enthusiasm of the most ardent patriot. At 5.30 a.m. the volunteers were on parade, and in the lurid glare of torches they marched down to the railway station headed by the Volunteer Band. In spite of the blinding blizzard and drifting snow hundreds of people accompanied them, and deafening cheers followed the train out of the station. At Southampton they boarded the "Doune Castle," and after an excellent passage arrived at Cape Town on March 7th. From there they proceeded to Beaufort West, where for some weeks they underwent arduous training. On May 12th they joined the 1st Battalion The Suffolk Regiment at the Vet River. The Suffolks, having been ordered to join Lord Roberts in his advance to Johannesburg and Pretoria, marched to Kroonstadt—the last forty miles being covered in a day and a night with but short halts. On

May 24th the march was continued to Rhenoster River, and on the 31st after heavy marching, the Battalion crossed the Vaal at Vereeniging. On June 3rd they joined the main army under Lord Roberts north of Johannesburg. On June 5th Pretoria was entered by Lord Roberts at the head of 25,000 men including the 1st Suffolks. On June 7th the Battalion formed part of General Smith Dorrien's column and marched to Irene, and on the 8th to Kaalfontein. Two Companies and Headquarters were at Aanoluting, two Companies, with part of the Volunteer Company, held Luurfontein Station, two others, with the remainder of the Volunteer Company, held Meyerton, while the two remaining Companies held Reitfontein. All these posts were well entrenched. On July 11th four Companies including the Volunteer Company took part in the operations which resulted in our capture of the Witpoort and Leeupoort positions. On the 18th the Battalion joined General Hutton's Column, which, as the inmost of four columns under General French, was to make a wide sweep east and south-east of Middleburg. A violent storm on the 25th caused much privation resulting in many deaths. On entering Middleburg on the 27th the Battalion held the kopjes west of the town. On July 30th a draft, including Lieut. H. S. Marriott (2nd Vol. Bn.) joined, and on August 2nd General French complimented the Battalion on its excellent work. On September 2nd they joined General Mahon's Column, and on September 9th took part in a wide turning movement, which was brilliantly accomplished in the face of great difficulties. The Boers were encountered six hundred strong with three guns, but after an extensive bombardment gave way before the determined advance of the Battalion. The casualties were one sergeant, one drummer, and two privates slightly wounded. On September 12th the Volunteer Company occupied a hill, exceptionally difficult of access and waterless, remaining there

for the next two days. The high elevation made the nights very cold, and without rations or blankets they passed a trying night which, however, was borne with their accustomed cheerfulness. Next day the Battalion were the first troops to enter Barberton, where some 200 Boers surrendered. On October 9th five Companies, including the Volunteer Company, reached Machadadorp. On October 10th the Volunteer Company left the 1st Suffolks, with twenty-eight prisoners for Pretoria, where they remained until October 22nd, when, at very short notice, they moved to Oliphantfontein, which they occupied under cover of darkness, as an attack was expected. It did not materialize, and on December 17th they moved to Vereeniging where the guerilla commandoes were very active, and the volunteers were continually attacked and kept in the trenches. On March 22nd they moved to Elandsfontein, but returned to Vereeniging on March 29th; proceeding on the following day to Kroonstadt; and on April 7th to Elnsgavonden. It was near this place that the volunteers had a narrow escape from being train-wrecked. They wished to continue the train journey, but as night was fast approaching this was forbidden. The next morning it was discovered that an iron telegraph pole had been lashed across the rails. They finally reached Cape Town on April 14th, having covered 950 miles in coal trucks in eight days. Within an hour of their arrival at the docks they had boarded the "Templemore," and eventually reached England on May 3rd, after fourteen months' absence.

The news of the safe return of the Volunteer Company caused great excitement and rejoicing in Bury St. Edmunds, but it was not until 4.30 p.m. on May 3rd that definite news was received that the volunteers would arrive that night. The town crier was sent round, and by 5 p.m. a large crowd had collected on the Station Hill ready to welcome them home. The train was greeted

at 6.40 p.m. by exploding fog signals, and enthusiastic cheering acclaimed Capt. Whitmore, Lieut. Marriott, and the ninety-eight men as they formed up on the platform. As they marched out of the station they were greeted with a tremendous ovation, and it was with considerable difficulty that they were able to make their way through the enormous crowds. In beautiful weather, through streets gaily bedecked with flags and bunting, and with the band playing lively and patriotic airs, the volunteers made their way to the Angel Hill where they were officially welcomed home by the Mayor. From there they marched to the Depot and were demobilized the following day.

After the departure of the 1st Volunteer Company a second Company was formed under Lieut. C. L. Reed (1st Vol. Bn.), and this Company left Bury St. Edmunds on the 23rd March 1901 and arrived at Cape Town on April 14th. On May 2nd they joined the 1st Battalion The Suffolk Regiment at Middleburg, where they remained until July 3rd, when the Battalion constructed and occupied a blockhouse line, thirty-five miles long, from Friederichstadt to Naauwpoort. On November 12th they marched to Ventorsdorp, and a blockhouse line to Tafelkop was commenced, being completed on January 29th. From this time onward the Battalion remained on blockhouse duty and nothing of importance occurred until May 19th, when the 2nd Volunteer Company left for Cape Town en route for England. On arrival at Bury St. Edmunds they received a warm welcome home.

Both Volunteer Companies were exceptionally fortunate in joining the Regular Battalion, as a large number of Volunteer Companies were employed in guarding lines of communications. That the volunteers performed their duties satisfactorily is shown by the following extract taken from the official history of the Suffolk Regiment : "Throughout their (the Volunteer Companies') tour of

active service they had taken their full share of all military duties and had borne all privations cheerfully."

The following is a quotation from a War Office pamphlet: "The representatives of the volunteers who marched and fought in South Africa, side by side with their comrades of the Regular Battalions, left a very favourable impression of their value on the minds of the Generals under whom they served."

For the services rendered by the active service volunteers in the South African War, the Battalion was granted the privilege of bearing the words "South Africa" on its Colours as a War Honour.

In 1908, under Lord Haldane's Territorial scheme, the Battalion lost its old title and became the 5th Battalion The Suffolk Regiment (T.F.). The annual training consisted of ten parades, each of one hour's duration (forty parades for a recruit) and attendance at camp for a fortnight. There were also frequent firing practices, shooting competitions, social gatherings, and occasional war games and staff tours. Each company also held an annual dinner, and prize-giving followed by a smoking concert. The Battalion, together with the 4th, and 5th Norfolks and the 4th Suffolks, formed the Norfolk and Suffolk Infantry Brigade, which was part of the East Anglian Division. The places where the Battalion spent their annual training are as follows: 1908, Felixstowe; 1909, Great Yarmouth; 1910, Aldershot; 1911, Thetford; 1912, Lowestoft; 1913, Diss; and 1914, Holkham Park. The Battalion strength at Holkham Park Camp was 27 officers and 912 other ranks, made up as follows: A Company, Stowmarket 104, Eye 42. Total 146. B Company, Beccles 107, Bungay 23. Total 130. C Company, Hadleigh and Bildeston. Total 73. D Company, Sudbury 71, Long Melford 36, Bures 27. Total 134. E Company, Bury St. Edmunds 82, Barrow 24. Total 106. F Company, Bury St. Edmunds 76, Lavenham 43. Total 119.

G Company, Haverhill 56, Clare 39. Total 95. H Company, Newmarket 83, Mildenhall 26. Total 109.

The names of the officers were as follows :—
Hon. Col. Sir Joshua Rowley, Bart., V.D.; Lieut.-Col. W. M. Armes, T.D., Commanding Officer; Major C. F. Wright, Second in Command; Major H. J. Hargrave; Captains H. H. Johnson (O.C. B Coy.), R. H. Kendle (O.C. A Coy.), S. J. Ennion (O.C. H Coy.), C. M. Oliver (O.C. F Coy.), B. E. Oliver (O.C. D Coy.), and G. W. Ledward (O.C. E Coy.). Lieutenants F. Mahomed, J. R. Rowley (O.C. C Coy.), W. I. Tait, R. M. W. Gross, A. Dennis (O.C. G Coy.), H. C. Wolton, R. R. Ledward, and N. Rooke. 2nd Lieutenants G. G. Warnes, H. G. Kilner, W. B. Hargrave, A. S. Parker, T. J. Catchpole, G. H. Long, P. G. Wilson, E. D. Wolton, and E. M. Ashton. Capt. and Adjutant H. M. Lawrence (Scottish Rifles). Lieut. A. J. Wills, Quartermaster and Lieut. H. F. Everett, R.A.M.C. The Regimental Sergeant Major was W. Beer, and the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant was S. P. Spall.

CHAPTER II.

TRAINING IN ENGLAND.

IN the summer of 1914, while the Battalion was carrying out its annual training at Holkham Park, there had been many rumours of war in the newspapers, but on July 26th, when the Battalion struck camp, few gave the possibility really serious thought. But during the night August 4th-5th, war having been declared, the Adjutant telegraphed the word "Mobilize" to each detachment commander, and this set in motion the elaborate mobilization orders which had been issued in 1913. These orders, which covered thirty-nine sheets of typewritten foolscap, had been prepared with the utmost care, and their foresight and thoroughness were amply proved by the mobilization taking place without a hitch of any sort. The order did not reach some of the outlying detachments until the early hours of the following day, but nominal rolls, medical inspections, and the building up of kit from the local shops were proceeded with at once, and the concentration of the Battalion was completed smoothly at Bury St. Edmunds by midday August 5th. During the morning an advance party proceeded from Bury to Felixstowe and drew the Battalion ammunition from Landguard Fort. By eight o'clock that evening the Battalion had reached its war-station: the heights on the Walton side of Felixstowe overlooking Harwich Harbour and the intervening marshes. That night and the following days the Battalion worked hard digging trenches and constructing defences. The work was novel and interesting, and as every one was keen and fit it proceeded apace till we were relieved five days later. We here suffered our first loss on August 12th by the death of

Private Unwin, who was possibly the first Territorial to die on active service in the Great War.

From Felixstowe we trained to Brentwood and commenced a trek of several weeks' duration, punctuated by stops for a few days at a time in various small towns and villages in Essex, notably, Ingrave, Lachingdon, and Wickham Bishops.

From Wickham Bishops the Brigade marched to Colchester, where military barracks were supposed to have been allotted for its accommodation. Disillusionment on this point arrived soon afterwards in the form of a message handed in on the line of march to the effect that no barracks would be available and that billets must be found at Mile End, two miles north of Colchester. On arrival at Colchester the explanation was clear to everyone. There issuing from North Station and heading for the various barracks, was a lengthy column of "K.I's" all in mufti. Our billeting resolved itself into the occupation of a group of large buildings erected in connection with the Eastern Counties Asylum at Mile End, and these served to house the main portion of the Brigade for the succeeding eight months.

Soon after we had settled in at Mile End, everyone was asked to volunteer for foreign service. This came rather as a shock to some, for we had not yet realized that the war was going to be a national and not a "private" war between the professional armies. The whole idea of Territorials serving abroad was foreign to the conditions under which they had enlisted, and this caused much searching of heart to many of the older men with wives and families. They had already made very considerable sacrifices by leaving their occupations at a moment's notice, and while there were many able-bodied young men who had not yet enlisted, some thought it was hardly fair to be asked to undertake further obligations. However, 72 per cent. of the Battalion volunteered for foreign

service and became the 1/5th Suffolks, while those who elected to remain for home service were formed into another Battalion known as the 2/5th Suffolks.

The Battalion had now to be recruited up to strength and a very vigorous training programme was put into operation. During the period spent at Colchester the rôle of the Division was that of coast defence and the training was varied with the construction of a fresh line of defences at Elmstead Market, a village about eight miles distant. In addition to the ordinary training certain duties were allotted to the Battalion, such as guarding the explosives factory at Stowmarket, coast patrolling at Frinton, and picqueting the roads around Colchester.

In January 1915 the Battalion was reorganized on the four-company system, the new A Company consisting of the former A and C Companies, B of B and D, C of E and G, and D of F and H.

By this time training had become much more advanced and inspections became more frequent. These culminated in the review of the Brigade by His Majesty The King on the Braiswick Golf Links in November.

Soon after this inspection the 1/4th Suffolks received the high honour of being selected for service in France. The 4th and 5th Suffolks had always been friendly rivals, and although we were sorry that the honour had not fallen to us yet we were the first to congratulate them on their success, and were proud to feel that our sister Battalion had gained the great distinction of being one of the first Territorial Battalions to be sent to France. When they marched away for "somewhere in France" we lined the road and cheered them as heartily as we could. Our cheers were not as lusty as usual, for the sight of those we knew so intimately leaving us for the hardships and dangers of France, while we were left behind, choked the throat.

During March 1915 each half Battalion in turn marched from Colchester to West Stow near Bury St. Edmunds, where it went through a field firing course. As the route lay through the area from which the Battalion was recruited, the majority were able to billet themselves and their friends at their own homes. This was the first time the people of West Suffolk had seen the Companies since the days of mobilization and the whole scheme was a great success.

The following month, however, witnessed the whole Battalion march through, as quarters were transferred from Colchester to Thetford, where the large open spaces afforded excellent facilities for brigade and divisional training; so dull and unintelligible for the rank and file, yet so necessary for the Officers.

While here the higher commands of the Territorial Force lost their geographical titles and were given numbers. The Norfolk and Suffolk Infantry Brigade became the 163rd Infantry Brigade, and the East Anglian Division was renamed the 54th Division. Also the 1/8th Hants joined the Brigade, taking the place of the 1/4th Suffolks, who had already distinguished themselves in France.

The Battalion remained at Thetford six weeks, and on May 18th, 1915, entrained for Watford, Hertfordshire. Here the necessary finishing touches were put to the training, and no one was surprised when, in July, orders were suddenly received that the 54th Division was to stand by for an Eastern destination. The Battalion was re-equipped and re-clothed, serge being replaced by drill and caps by helmets, the novelty of which was the source of endless jokes.

When the time for departure drew near, Lord Stradbroke, President of the Suffolk Territorial Association, Commanding the C/270 Howitzer Battery (Ipswich), inspected the Battalion in Cassiobury Park. In his

speech he said that, speaking as a Suffolk man, he was quite satisfied that the Battalion would prove worthy of its regimental traditions. He concluded by saying how very sorry the personnel of the Divisional artillery was that it was not permitted to accompany the infantry abroad.

The following Officers and Warrant Officers left England with the Battalion for Gallipoli :—

Lieut.-Colonel W. M. Armes, T.D. (Commanding), Major H. J. Hargrave, Capt. and Adjutant H. M. Lawrence.

A Company : Major R. H. Kendle, T.D., Capt. J. R. Rowley, Capt. A. Dennis, Lieut. G. G. Warnes, Lieut. P. Wilson (Machine-gun Section), 2nd Lieut. G. K. Alston, and 2nd Lieut. B. A. Keen, with C.-S.-M. Wright and C.-Q.-M.-S. Double.

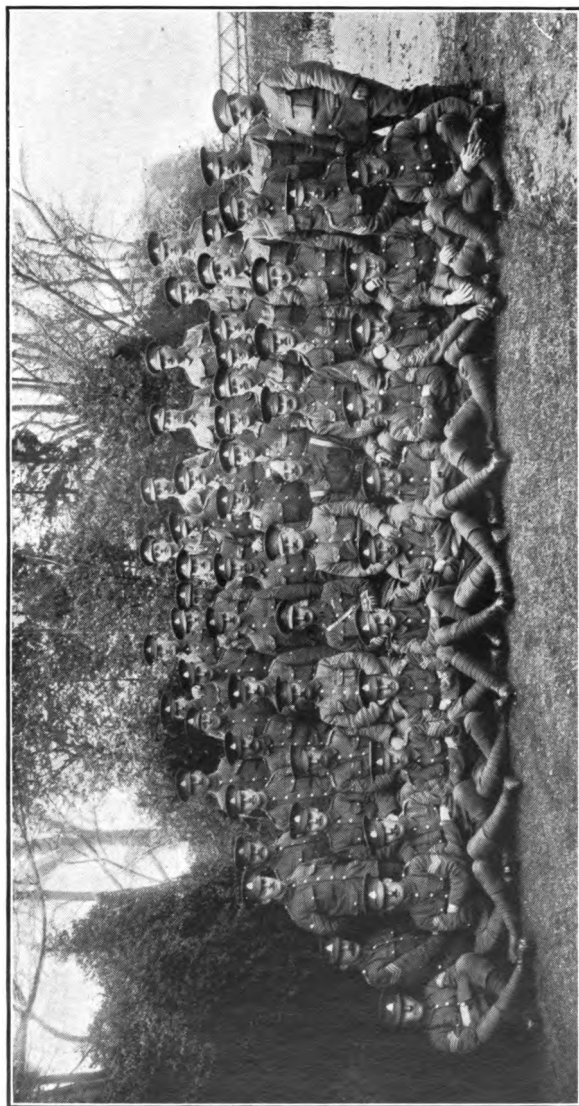
B Company : Capt. B. E. Oliver, Capt. W. I. Tait, Lieut. A. S. Parker, Lieut. E. M. Ashton, 2nd Lieut. G. Kilner (Machine-gun Section), and 2nd Lieut. E. J. Kendle, with C.-S.-M. Hunt and C.-Q.-M.-S. Meen.

C Company : Capt. G. Lacy Scott, Capt. G. W. Ledward, 2nd Lieut. B. W. Cockell, 2nd Lieut. T. Hinnell, and 2nd Lieut. O. B. Wolton, with C.-S.-M. Bell and C.-Q.-M.-S. Sills.

D Company : Capt. C. M. Oliver, Capt. R. M. Jackson, Lieut. H. C. Wolton, Lieut. N. Rooke, Lieut. E. D. Wolton, and 2nd Lieut. C. W. Cory, with C.-S.-M. Nixon and C.-Q.-M.-S. Moody, Lieut. and Quartermaster A. J. Wills; Medical Officer, F. H. Everett; Chaplain, the Rev. Pierrepont Edwards.

Regimental Sergeant-Major Beer.

Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant Spall.



SERGEANTS AT THETFORD, 1915.

Back Row.—Sergt. Harper, Sergt. Day, Pioneer-Sergt. Ambrose, L/Sergt. Tricker, Sergt. Barber, Sergt. Lingley, Sergt. Parr, Sergt. Radford, L/Sergt. Defew, Sergt. Culley, Sergt. Gooderham, Sergt. Harvey, Sergt. Neve, Sergt. Robinson, Sergt. Sale, Sergt. Marlow.

Third Row.—C-Q-M-S. Double, Sergt. Bryant, C-Q-M-S. Sills, Sergt. Bailey, Sergt.-Tailor Hills, Sergt.-Cook Upcraft, Sergt. French, L/Sergt. Smith, Sergt. Forder, Sergt. Williams, Sergt. Hurry, Sergt. Harrold, Sergt. Stiff, Sergt.-Shoemaker Brackett, Sergt. Barnes, Sergt. Farrant, L/Sergt. Linton, Sergt. Clarke.

Second Row.—L/Sergt. Scotchmer, C-Q-M-S. Moody, C-S-M. Moody, C-S-M. Nickson, C-S-M. Wright, Lieut-Col. W. M. Ames, T.D., Sergt. Major Beer, Capt. and Adjutant H. M. Lawrence, Q-M-S. Spall, C-S-M. Hunt, C-Q-M-S. Meen, Sergt. Leathley.

Front Row.—Sergt. Turnor, Sergt. Lerner, Sergt. Game, Sergt. Panton, Sergt. Hayward, Sergt. Bowell, L/Sergt. Albon, L/Sergt. Rodgers, Sergt. Woods, Sergt.-Drummer Boyce, Sergt. Falls.

CHAPTER III.

GALLIPOLI.

On July 29th, 1915, the Battalion (less the transport), comprising 29 Officers and 978 other ranks, entrained for Liverpool in two parties. Headquarters, A and C Companies left at 6 a.m., and even at that early hour hundreds of the good folk of Watford accompanied them to the station, and gave them a hearty farewell. B and D Companies paraded at about 9.30 a.m., and business was at a standstill, for the people turned out in thousands and gave them a wonderful send-off; not content with carrying each man's heavy kitbag, our good friends were anxious to relieve us of our rifles! The people of Watford had made us feel during the whole of our stay, that we were welcome and honoured guests, and had entirely captured our hearts. It was hard to part, but pleasant to feel that so many kind thoughts and good wishes were going with us. Throughout the long campaign that followed, these pleasant memories lightened many a dark and dreary hour, and those subsequently evacuated home, wounded or sick, made frequent visits to the kind hosts who made them so welcome in midsummer 1915.

On arrival at Liverpool the Battalion, with the greater part of the Infantry of the 54th (E.A.) Division (about 7,000), embarked on board H.M.T. "Aquitania," one of the largest liners afloat. The Battalion was lucky as it was allotted quarters which had immediate access to fresh air, and this good fortune was appreciated more and more as we proceeded south.

At 11 p.m. on July 30th the "Aquitania" slipped cable. It was with mingled feelings that we saw the lights

of England slowly fade away. Sorrow at leaving behind our relatives and friends checked our natural feelings of satisfaction and relief at being about to share the hardships and dangers that our friends and comrades had already borne for many months.

On slipping cable a lifebelt became part of every one's normal dress, and each was allotted a boat station.

Two destroyers escorted us for a day, but owing to the heavy weather we encountered they could not keep up with the ship and departed. The sea caused many casualties, and introduced many of us to the terrors of seasickness in even more than usually unsympathetic surroundings.

The ship from now on was left to her own resources against possible submarine attacks. These resources consisted of taking a zig-zag course—which, incidentally, added to the rolling—keeping a sharp look-out to ram any submarine, and machine-gun fire. Of course, it was only by luck, or against the earlier type of submarine, that the machine-gun was of any use. Its function was to smash the mirror of the periscope, or, failing that, to splash it so that a blurred view was the result!

It was interesting to notice that all British ships dipped their flags to us.

Life on board consisted chiefly of inspections, varied with physical drill, alarms, and numerous guards and picquets. With a complement of 7,000 there was no lack of company.

One unrehearsed incident stirred the whole ship. One night a cornet player was delighting his audience with "Home Sweet Home." A bugler, turning in his sleep, caught the strains and deciding that any call at that time of night must be the alarm promptly sounded it! The result can be better imagined than described! It is sad to record that his only reward for his ability to grasp the

situation promptly and to act on his instructions was a night in the cells!

Every evening the splendid brass band of the 1/8th Hants played for two hours, finishing up with the regimental marches of the Battalions on board. It was a real treat to hear them play, and their performance was always greatly appreciated.

On August 2nd we passed Gibraltar's mighty bulk, on August 4th Malta, and on August 6th at 8 a.m. we arrived at Mudros Harbour in Lemnos Island. Mudros Harbour was full of craft of all kinds, and there was always something interesting in the medley of shipping. French transports filled with their Colonial troops, our own transports arriving or departing, hospital ships, and all kinds and sizes of war craft, made a continuous spectacle of vivid interest. As each fresh transport arrived it always sent and was received with united cries of "Who are you?" As it was strictly forbidden to give such information the answers were not very illuminating.

Our fellows were keen to a man to be in it, and their eagerness once gained them a *coup de grâce* in a wordy interchange with a shipful of Australian troops returning to the front. "Are we downhearted," yelled the Australians. "No," was our hearty and unsuspecting reply. The thrust came back like a flash, "Then you blanky soon will be!"

For three days we were kept in the harbour, chafing at being idle, while we knew the big push was being made. However, on August 9th our turn came, and at 3.40 p.m. we were transferred to a smaller vessel, the "Fauvette," and proceeded to Imbros Harbour, where the night was spent. The afternoon of August the 10th saw us sail into Suvla Bay. Here we landed in lighters at "A" Beach and marched to a point about two miles inland.

All was new, country, climate, conditions, and work. The country where we landed might be described as

mildly rugged, scrub covered and rock strewn, apparently devoid of fresh water, and altogether most inhospitable. The weather was scorchingly hot, and the sun's rays beating down from almost overhead were reflected from the sparsely covered rocks. We felt this fierce heat doubly as we had not had time to get acclimatized and, coming as we did straight from the ship where there was little room for exercise, were not in the best of condition. In contrast to the heat during the day the nights were very cold. What little vegetation there was varied in species, but always had one point (or points) in common, for every plant possessed sharp prickles. The Battalion had carried fifty camp kettles of water from the ship, and this foresight on the part of Battalion Headquarters repaid all a thousandfold. But we had yet to learn how scarce water really was, and the full meaning of that scarcity.

Although within artillery range the Turks did not cause us much harm until the advance on August 12th, only occasional shells being sent over. This was mainly due to the fact that during the night we dug in hard and did not move about by day.

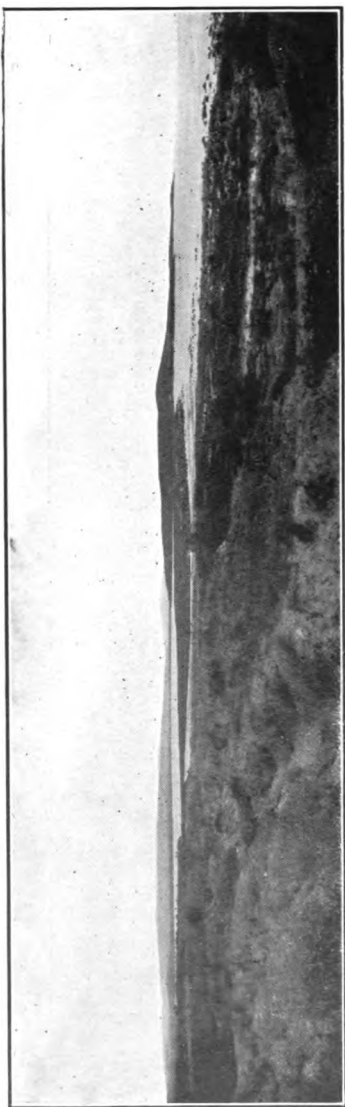
On the evening of August 10th we received orders to move forward to prolong the right of the Lancashire Fusiliers, whose trenches were on the south face of Karakol Dag, and thus fill the gap between this point and the north-east edge of the Salt Lake. This having been done, and outposts having been posted, we spent the night digging trenches. Early next morning we took up a more forward position, which we occupied until the afternoon of August 12th, when at 3.30 p.m. we received verbal orders to advance 1,200 yards due east at 4 p.m. The 1/5th Norfolks were to be on the right, the 1/8th Hants in the centre, the 1/5th Suffolks on the left which directed the attack. The 1/4th Norfolks were in support on the left. The direction was pointed out, and the



SUVLA BAY.



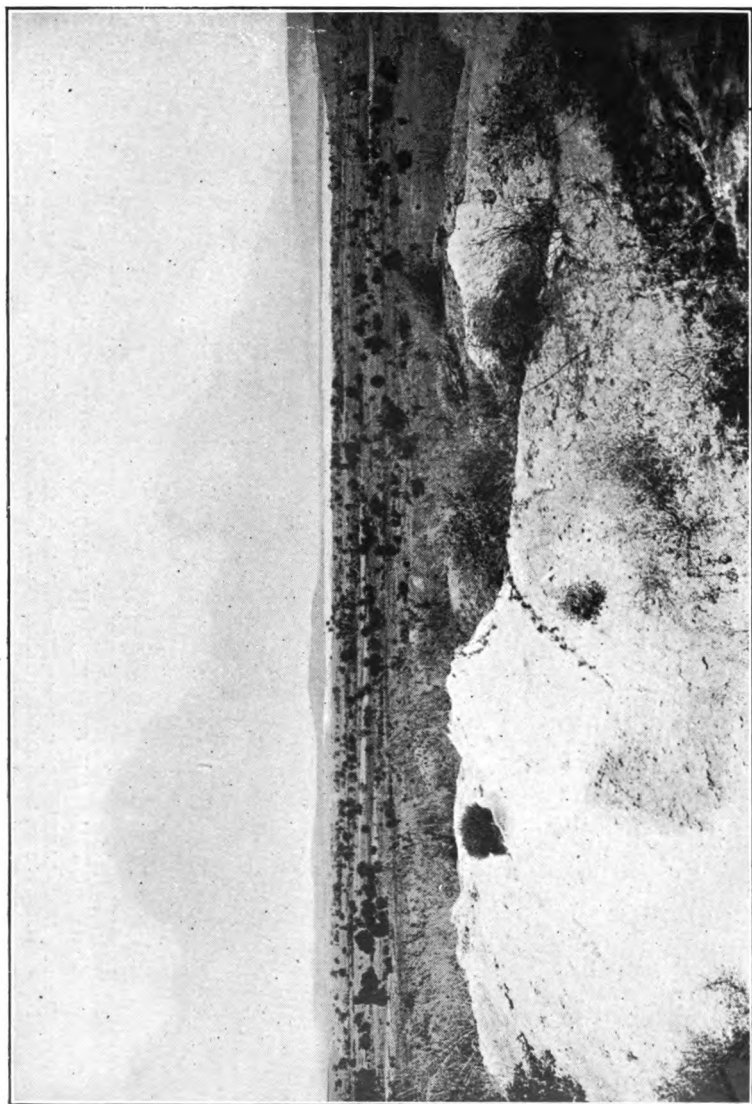
ANZAC AND PADDLE-STEAMER "MARSDEN."



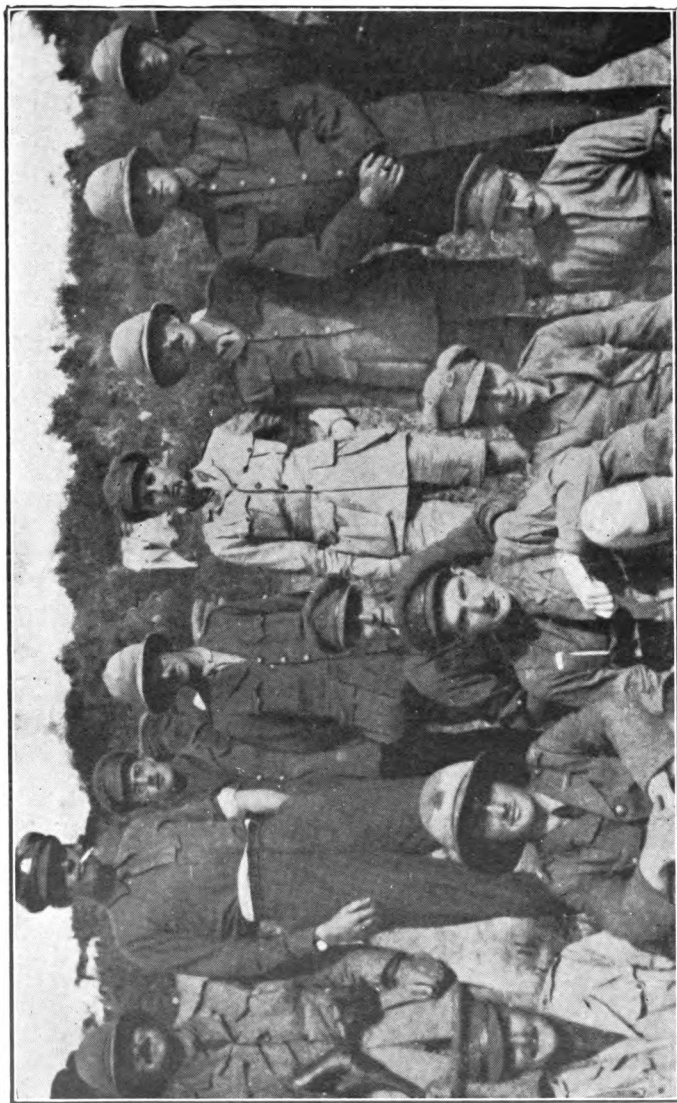
SALT LAKE AND LALA BABA.



THE SPHINX.



HILL 60, LOOKING TOWARDS SALT LAKE.



GROUP OF OFFICERS IN DIXON'S GULLY, GALLIPOLI.

Capt. Wormald, Lieut.-Col. Miers, Lieut. Norton, Lieut. Haddock, Lieut. Fox, Capt. Hill, Capt. Wolton, Lieut. Wolton, Lieut. Haynes, Lieut. Fitzherbert, Lieut. Ashton, Lieut. Maria, Lieut. Parker, Lieut. Temple.

optimistic, if erroneous, information added that it was "just a sniper drive to push back stray Turks." We had just half an hour in which to plan and issue orders for an advance against an enemy whose position was not known. An issue of water and rum which was being made when the advance was ordered had to be abandoned, and the attack commenced forthwith. The 54th Divisional Artillery having been left behind in England, there was no Field Artillery support, but the naval guns supported the advance with high explosive. This sounded comforting, even if it was unable to do much harm. High explosive is useful for pounding trenches and other known positions, but its effect is very local, and for open warfare with an enemy in unknown positions it is of little use. However, the mere fact of having some sort of artillery support gave us additional confidence.

At 4 p.m. the Battalion (A and C Companies leading, B and D Companies supporting), with the remainder of the Brigade, commenced the attack. After advancing a short distance we came under most destructive fire from the concealed enemy, who from the nature of the ground and his intimate knowledge of it was able to bring machine-gun fire to bear on our flanks and rifle-fire from the front. He also had some support from his field artillery. An observer has recorded that, in spite of the heavy fire encountered, the Battalion went forward as steadily and coolly as if they were still under training at Watford, and reached a position about 1,500 yards in advance of the jumping-off line. Isolated parties pushed on; but the Battalion held on here for an hour, when it received orders to retire 200 yards to a fenced ditch which afforded better cover and made a definite line. This position remained our front line until the evacuation took place. We now occupied and consolidated it for seventy-two hours, when we were relieved by the Essex

B

during the evening of August 15th, and retired to reserve trenches. During the whole of the seventy-two hours the position was subjected to severe sniping and occasional artillery fire. The heat was intense, and there was a great shortage of water. The lack of cover from the sun made sleep impossible during the day, even if the flies had permitted it; and at night sentry groups, work on the trenches, and fatigues took every available man. There was only one small issue of water, any further supply having to be obtained from a much-sniped well in the vicinity. At the reserve trenches the casualties were ascertained, and it was found that the advance had cost the Battalion dearly, 11 Officers, and 178 N.C.O.'s and men were killed, wounded or missing, and 6 Officers and a large number of N.C.O.'s and men were evacuated to hospital.

The following Officers were reported killed or missing: Lieut.-Col. W. M. Armes, T.D., Major R. H. Kendle, T.D., Capt. G. W. Ledward, 2nd Lieuts. C. W. Cory, T. S. Hinnell, G. K. Alston, and O. B. Wolton. The wounded were Lieuts. N. Rooke, G. G. Warnes, E. M. Ashton, A. S. Parker, and F. H. Everett (R.A.M.C. attached). Only 2nd Lieut. G. K. Alston was known definitely to have been killed, all the remainder were missing. Only three men were afterwards reported prisoners, so all these Officers, N.C.O.'s and men must be presumed to have been killed. It is thought that these fine men were the foremost and quickest to advance, and in their keenness had bravely rushed forward in isolated parties and without adequate support. They seemed to have completely disappeared. No one came back who could give an account of what had happened to them. Truly these men "endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice." In Col. Armes the Battalion lost an officer whose enthusiasm and keenness

were whole hearted. Although in poor health he had worked hard to bring the Battalion to a high state of efficiency. By his example and teaching he had established that sense of mutual trust and co-operation which is so essential among all ranks. He had passed on, but his spirit and the principles he had taught lived on in all those who had served under him.

It was immediately after this action that our chaplain, the Rev. Pierrepont Edwards, did such good work in charge of a volunteer stretcher-party that he was awarded the Military Cross.

General Sir Ian Hamilton, in his despatch dated December 11th, 1915, has detailed the reasons for the failure of the Suvla Bay landing. With regard to the 54th Division he wrote: "The 54th Division (infantry only) arrived and was disembarked on August 11th and placed in reserve. On the following day I proposed that the 54th Division should make a night march in order to attack at dawn on the 13th the heights Kavak Tepe-Teke Tepe (the chief summits of the Anafarta Hills). The Corps Commander, having reason to believe that the enclosed country about Kuchak Anafarta Ova and the north of it were held by the enemy, ordered one brigade to move forward in advance and make good Kuchak Anafarta Ova, so as to ensure an unopposed march for the remainder of the division as far as that place. So that afternoon the 163rd Brigade moved off, and in spite of serious opposition established itself in difficult and enclosed country. In the course of this fighting, creditable in all respects to the 163rd Brigade . . ."

On August 15th at 11 p.m., after being relieved by the Essex, the Battalion reached the reserve trenches, where Capt. G. Lacy Scott took over command. The Battalion did not get its much-hoped-for rest, for at 2 p.m. the following day it was ordered out in support of another Brigade. This time things went well, and we returned

to the reserve trenches at about 7 p.m. About midday on August 17th, while the 10th (Irish) Division were making a frontal attack along the high ridges of Kiretch Tepe Sirt, the 1/8th Hants and ourselves were detailed to climb these heights to support the Royal Irish Fusiliers and the Inniskilling Fusiliers. The march was very arduous involving a climb of 600 feet by devious routes over extremely broken country and under hostile artillery fire. Moreover, we had to advance in the worst of all formations—single file. But by nightfall the four Battalions were holding the front line of trenches on the north side of Kiretch Tepe Sirt. The difficulties and conditions attending this change of position were trying out of all proportion to the time taken or the distance moved. The diary of the Adjutant (Capt., afterwards Lieut.-Col., H. M. Lawrence, D.S.O.) records "The weather fiercely hot. Battalion constantly under shrapnel fire."

On August 18th the Battalion was relieved by the Royal Irish Fusiliers and withdrew to the local reserve trenches. Here we remained until August 27th, busy making the reserve trenches and dug-outs, furnishing water-carrying parties, making roads and otherwise improving communications. This period, although we were kept hard at work day and night, and were continually under shrapnel and sniper fire, was a pleasant relief from being continually on the move. Here also we were able to enjoy the luxury of an occasional bathe. As the total issue of water for all purposes for three days was half a pint, and thereafter one pint per day, and one could drink quarts and still be thirsty, not much could be spared for washing, and so the bathe was greatly appreciated. As this entailed, however, a return climb of about 400 feet, one sometimes wondered whether after all it was really worth while.

A destroyer was always on duty on our left flank and was continually harassing the Turk day and night, while

the Turkish shrapnel in reply striking the water near the ship made a novel and picturesque sight.

On August 21st the strength of the Battalion at Battalion H.Q. was 12 Officers and 499 other ranks.

On August 27th, on relief by the 32nd Brigade, the 163rd Brigade was sent farther back and bivouacked on Karakol Dag. Here shelter trenches were again constructed, making the fourth series the Battalion was obliged to dig to escape the effects of the unwelcome sniping and shelling to which the Turk had so constantly subjected us. The stay here was a very short one, for the following night, August 28/29, the Battalion marched five miles in single file across the Salt Lake to Lala Baba. The country covered was most fatiguing. We had to climb up and down the precipitous sides of Karakol Dag and across deep water-gullies until we came to the Salt Lake. This being soft and yielding sand was very heavy going. There was no transport and everything had to be carried. The very fullest marching order, with 250 rounds S.A.A., machine-guns, picks and shovels, camp kettles, petrol tins for storing water, rations, and blankets, had also to be carried. It was a heavy task for the strongest. For those whose stout hearts made them struggle against sickness and weakness to do their share it was a nightmare. It can be imagined how glad we all were to reach our post !

At Lala Baba the Battalion remained in dugouts in the cliffs and spent the time doing general fatigues with occasional outposts at night. It was very pleasant to be beside the sea, and every day and all day was washing-day. Although we were troubled occasionally by shell-fire, this was by far our pleasantest and safest camp during the whole time spent on Gallipoli. Here hostile aircraft paid us their first call, dropping two bombs ; one brought down a big slice of the cliff, and the other fell close to Divisional Headquarters. The only casualties

were to our faithful mules. A British aeroplane was forced to descend near here and the Turk gave an interesting display of shelling in an effort to destroy it. No fewer than 150 shells were fired with no apparent result. Here also we received our first bread ration since leaving the "Aquitania." Although stale and sour it was a very welcome change after nearly a month of hard and unpalatable biscuits. The climate, hard work, and poor rations were beginning to tell seriously on the Battalion, and dysentery and diarrhoea were becoming alarmingly prevalent.

On September 1st, at 8 p.m., the Battalion paraded to move to Kaiajak Aghala, a place between Chocolate Hill and Anzac, but a sudden outburst of severe firing on Kiretch Tepe Sirt caused the move to be temporarily postponed. However, at 11 p.m., news having been received that the Turkish attack had failed, the Battalion fell in again, and at 3.30 a.m. reached South Wales Borderers Gully, which was to be our bivouac area.

On September 2nd A and C Companies were detailed to be attached to the 3rd Australian Light Horse at Rhododendron Spur, and they remained there until September 11th. From the night September 2nd/3rd until the morning of September 5th, when they were relieved by the 1/4th Northants, B and D Companies held the trenches at Hill 60 in conjunction with the New Zealand Mounted Rifle Brigade. The Anzacs then withdrew from the line at Aghyl Dere to Hill 60, which was taken over by the 54th Division.

Before continuing the narrative perhaps a few notes on Hill 60 would be appropriate. Hill 60 overlooked the Biyuk Anafarta Valley, and was therefore tactically a very important feature. Its capture gave us complete command of the under-features, an outlook over Anafarta Sagir Valley, and safer lateral communications between Anzac and Suvla Bay. It also deprived the Turk of a

very fine observation post. From this it can be easily understood how very important Hill 60 was. During the night of August 27th it was captured only after the most desperate fighting by the Australians, New Zealand Mounted Rifles, and the 5th Connaught Rangers. The casualties on our side in this hotly contested affair amounted to one thousand. The Turkish casualties were estimated at 5,000, and the whole hill was littered with dead.

From September 5th to 13th the Battalion garrisoned Hill 60, spending about one day in and two days out. The trenches at this time were no more than very hurriedly made fire positions, and in order to improve them and turn Hill 60 into a strong redoubt parties were working continuously by day and by night. On handing over the trenches the Battalion (which had now shrunk to one-fourth its original strength) had to supply a working-party of fifty men. This meant that those fifty men did not return to rest with the remainder of the Battalion, but remained working in the trenches until they were relieved by another luckless party. The result was that while garrisoning Hill 60 no one had a full night's rest.

The most complete precautions were taken against a surprise attack. Every man in the front-line trenches and one man in six in the support lines had to keep awake all night. Although it was bitterly cold at this time no overcoats were allowed to be worn, as it was thought they would impede us in case of attack. The trenches were too narrow for stretchers, and the badly wounded had to be carried out on blankets.

Hill 60 formed a salient in both the British and Turkish lines, and was badly enfiladed from Chunak Bair and other hills on our right flank in possession of the Turks. They were quick to turn this to advantage, and practically all their artillery fire was enfilade. One

battery of 75's was particularly enterprising and unpleasant. With most guns we could hear the report and then the approach of the shell, and were able to take cover, but with these guns the velocity of the shell was so great that it exploded almost as soon as the sound was heard, hardly giving time even to duck our heads.

Only the crest line of the Hill had been captured, and the Turks were within easy bombing distance, the trenches being from twenty-five to thirty yards apart. As they realized the importance of the position they paid this section a highly complimentary but most unwelcome attention.

The parapets of the trenches were in many places made up of dead bodies. In that desperate fight for Hill 60 the troops who consolidated the position were face to face with death for hours, and found that if they were to win in that awful struggle their dead comrades must be forgotten for the time. So it came about that many were buried in the parapets with a scanty covering of earth, and a protruding foot or hand gave a fearful meaning to the words "The life of man is but as grass which springeth up in the morning and by evening is cut down."

No words can describe the stench which continued for months. Some bodies were removed from the parapet, but this did not improve matters much, as there were many bodies outside the trenches which could not be brought in owing to the closeness of the Turks. The flies became almost intolerable, and prevented any chance of rest by day. Except in water saved from the scanty drinking ration, washing was impossible. When night fell, and the flies ceased to trouble, vermin became active. Drinking water was scarce and precious, for it had to be man-handled in tins for three miles by night, or under shell-fire by day. Sickness, chiefly dysentery

and diarrhoea, began to play havoc among our depleted ranks.

During these nine days on Hill 60 we lost 3 killed, 8 wounded, and 32 to hospital. Nine thousand rounds of S.A.A. were expended. These figures never include machine-gun ammunition.

On September 13th the Battalion was relieved from Hill 60 and moved to a bivouac area close behind Norfolk Trench. Norfolk Trench was the continuation to the right of the front line from Hill 60. About this date the welcome news was received that only 150 rounds of S.A.A. instead of 250 were to be carried on each man:

On Sept 15th the Battalion relieved the 1/4th Norfolks in Norfolk Trench. A well was found a few yards from the front line and was of priceless value, for, although the water was not supposed to be fit for drinking purposes, this order was not rigidly enforced. So while here we did not suffer from water shortage and took the opportunity of having a good wash.

On September 18th/19th Norfolk Trench was heavily enfiladed by artillery, rifle, and machine-gun fire, and the bombing was fierce. A Turkish patrol attempted to bomb out a listening post, but was repulsed with a loss of three dead and many wounded. On September 20th the Battalion was relieved and took over a new bivouac area in Australia Gully West. During this spell of trench duty the Battalion lost 4 killed, 2nd Lieut. E. J. Kendle and 18 wounded, and 43 to hospital. Seven thousand rounds of S.A.A. were expended.

September 21st saw our first draft of Officers join us. They were Capt. Copinger Hill, Lieuts. A. A. Maris, P. W. B. Ashton, 2nd Lieuts. H. Temple, F. E. Haynes, and D. C. W. Smith. It was as if they brought with them a little of that England that we seemed to have left so long ago.

Serge clothing was issued in place of the thin khaki drill we had been wearing. During these five days of rest 23 men were sent to hospital. On September 24th the total decrease of the Battalion's strength since disembarkation was :—

Killed, died, or missing,	7	Officers,	78	other ranks.
Wounded	..	6	..	217
Sick	..	4	..	80
<hr/>				
Total	..	17	..	375

From September 25th to 30th we again garrisoned Norfolk Trench. During this tour of duty 140 rifles, both British and Turkish, were collected in the area behind the trenches, amongst the unburied bodies of the original Anzac landing-party of April 25th, 1915. These men, like our own at Suvla, had pushed on far in advance of their comrades, and in small isolated parties had put up a desperate fight until overwhelmed by superior numbers. The following message was received : "General Birdwood wishes to convey to you Sir Ian Hamilton's thanks for your activities in collecting rifles, both British and Turkish, a work to which he attaches much importance."

Our casualties in the six days were 4 wounded and 1 Officer and 51 men to hospital. S.A.A. expended 8,810.

On October 1st Major G. Lacy Scott was invalided sick to England, and Major Bowker (Somerset Light Infantry) took over command until the arrival of Lieut.-Col. H. J. Miers (Monmouthshire Regiment) on October 8th. On October 4th Capt. O. E. Wormald and 2nd Lieut. S. H. Waller, on October 7th 2nd Lieuts. Fitzherbert and C. J. Norton, and October 8th 2nd Lieuts. G. G. Oliver and S. P. Leigh, and 57 other ranks reported their arrival. This was the first and last draft the Battalion

received of other ranks, and they were very badly needed, as casualties and sickness had made further inroads on our numbers. These were now 21 Officers (10 newly joined) and 380 other ranks, of which 52 were unfit for duty.

During October 5th to 10th the Battalion took over Norfolk Trench again. We were warned that gas had been used in small quantities by the Turks and made preparations accordingly.

Every evening about this time the sunsets were particularly fine. From Norfolk Trench the sight across the rough scrub-covered hills to Suvla Bay, with its shipping, across the sparkling sea to the Islands of Imbros and Samothrace standing up in bold relief and lit up with the warm evening glow, made a glorious sight, and brought memories of another Isle "set in a silver sea."

Casualties during this period were 2 killed, 6 wounded, 1 Officer and 27 men to hospital. S.A.A. expended 11,481.

October 11th was a red-letter day as the Brigade arranged "that all ranks should be spared all fatigue for twenty-four hours in recognition of the satisfactory way the Battalion had carried out its arduous duties while garrisoning Norfolk Trench with such a decreased strength." During this period of rest the Battalion lost 2 Officers and 24 men to hospital.

From October 15th to 21st the Battalion again held Hill 60, relieving the 1/4th Northants. During the month since we had left Hill 60 great improvements had been effected. The trenches had been deepened, shelter pits constructed, communication trenches dug, and it was safer and stronger. Despite these improvements Hill 60 was still a very lively post, and although the weather had become cooler it was at times a fairly hot spot. The effect of the continual duties in the trenches, working-parties during the "rest" period, and the constant rifle,

machine-gun, and artillery fire, began to tell on the Battalion, and the hospital returns were heavy. The few canteens were either at Anzac Beach or Suvla Bay, and so inaccessible to us. There is no doubt that the monotonous diet was a big factor in causing sickness.

Fighting in Hill 60 now chiefly took the form of bombing, sapping, and mining. The bombs were of a most primitive kind. Most were "jam tin" bombs, and were made by the local Royal Engineers. Empty jam tins were filled with any odds and ends, such as empty cartridge cases, stones, nails, or bits of iron, the detonator and fuse were added, the tin was closed up, and there it was—a real live bomb! At the bombing post the thrower held the bomb in his hand with its fuse towards another man who then struck a match and lit the fuse. The fuse was timed to burn a certain number of seconds before causing the explosion, and the thrower had to judge carefully the correct time to throw it. If he threw it at once the Turk could promptly return it, and the thrower and his party would be literally "hoist with their own petard." He had therefore to calculate the time so that when the bomb landed in the Turkish trench it went off before the Turks could get out of the way or return it. As can be well imagined, to hold a spluttering, hissing home-made bomb in your hand, slowly counting seconds, was a ticklish job, and required coolness and judgment. Why most of the bombers did not disappear heavenward amid clouds of smoke and noise passes comprehension! An observer with a periscope marked where the bomb fell and corrected the range and direction. One man was always on duty with a blanket, or old great coat, and when a Turkish bomb fell into the post he had to cover it up at once with the blanket, which minimized the effect of the explosion very considerably.

After a time cricket-ball bombs made their appearance. They were a considerable improvement on the jam tin bomb, as no match was needed to light them. The top of the fuse was rubbed along the rough side of a match box, thus lighting it. The next improvement was the issue of a bomb which was lighted internally by means of pulling a tape, and just before we left the peninsula we received an occasional Mills grenade. But practically all the bombs were of the jam tin variety.

At one part of our line the Turkish trenches were out of hand-bombing range, so a catapult gun was sent up. It made its home in the trench running parallel to and about twenty yards behind the front line. This strange instrument consisted of a smooth platform on the far end of which were tied many bands of elastic rubber, and these were joined to a sling in which was placed a bomb. There was a windlass to stretch the rubbers and a catch to hold the sling. To adjust the distance the bomb had to go, the platform had to be raised or lowered, and the windlass wound accordingly. Having made a guess at the elevation required, and wound up the windlass, the next thing was to send the bomb to its destination. In theory all the gunner had to do was to light the fuse, place it in the sling, release the catch, and the bomb would go sailing happily to its objective. In actual practice the bombs frequently dropped out of the sling or hit the parapet and fell down, causing the man to run for his life behind the next traverse and blowing up the gun. However, if the bomb did succeed in clearing the parapet it usually landed just in front of, or just behind, our own front lines, causing much commotion and swearing among the occupants thereof. Sometimes it varied the performance by throwing the bomb at right angles to itself. This was most unpleasant and was really against the rules of the game. There was generally unfeigned joy and mutual congratulation when the gun blew itself up—

as it often did. But there seemed to be an unlimited supply of these weapons and we were never long without one.

We were also armed with a quite efficient Garland trench-mortar gun, which did very useful work.

Beneath Hill 60 was a perfect rabbit-warren of underground saps, both British and Turkish, destined eventually to be blown up.

The mining was undertaken by the Welsh Horse Imperial Yeomanry, and one could not wish to be associated with a finer body of men. They were mostly old campaigners, averaging (in those pre-beribboned days) a ribbon and a half to a man. For cheerfulness, solid work, keenness and pluck they would indeed be hard to beat. Nothing of great importance occurred during this spell of duty beyond the usual bombardments and bombing fights, except that two letters were thrown into our trenches by the Turks inviting us to spend a happy Christmas in Constantinople as prisoners of war. The only appropriate reply appeared to be a hand grenade, which was promptly sent.

On October 19th Capt. H. J. W. Oxlade and Lieut. W. T. Haddock joined the Battalion. During this period 2 men were killed and 6 wounded, while 4 Officers and 39 men were sent to hospital. Two thousand rounds of S.A.A. and 714 bombs were expended.

On October 21st the Battalion bivouac area was removed to Dixon's Gully, and on the same day Lieut. L. B. Fox and 2nd Lieut. J. H. Chapman, and on October 22nd, 2nd Lieuts. C. A. E. Horton and T. F. Tomlinson, reported their arrival.

On October 24th the strength of the Battalion was 23 Officers and 328 other ranks. The total losses since the landing up to that day were 23 Officers and 636 other ranks. Of the 23 Officers with the Battalion only 4 of the original Battalion remained, they were Major and

Adjutant H. M. Lawrence, Capt. J. R. Rowley (acting quartermaster), Lieut. E. D. Wolton (not in the attack of August 12th), and Lieut. G. Kilner (Brigade machine-gun officer). During this period of rest, which extended to the 30th, 2nd Lieut. Leigh was wounded and 2 Officers and 66 men were sent to hospital.

From October 30th to November 5th the Battalion garrisoned Hill 60. This period was fairly quiet except that enemy machine-guns continuously enfiladed the support trenches. The Artillery retaliated by heavily bombarding the enemy machine-gun emplacements, completely destroying one of them. 2nd Lieut. G. G. Oliver had a marvellous escape, as the same bullet which killed Pte. Hume slightly grazed his nose and knocked out several of his teeth. One man was killed, Lieut. E. D. Wolton and 2nd Lieut. G. G. Oliver and 9 men wounded, and 1 Officer and 17 men sent to hospital. S.A.A. expended 3,695, and 1,021 bombs.

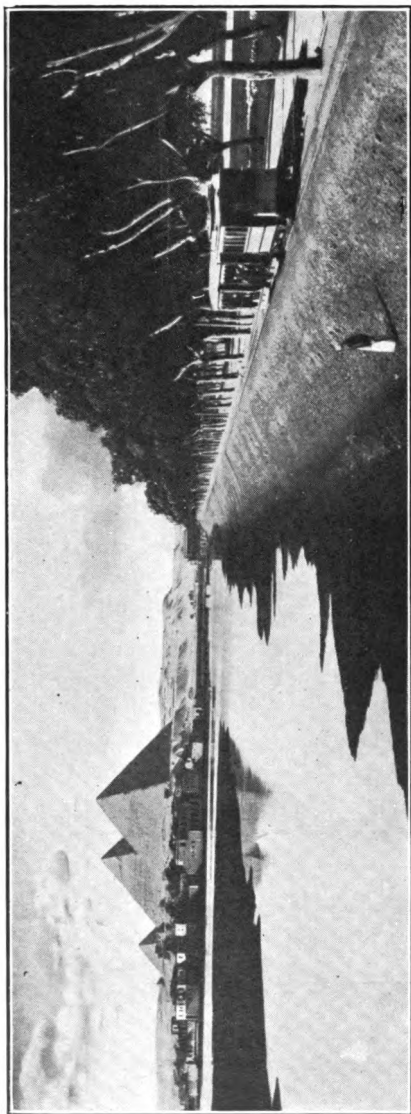
On November 5th we were relieved and returned to Dixon's Gully to have our bayonets sharpened and to make preparations for the explosion of the mines on Hill 60. Owing to the possibility of the evacuation of Gallipoli (of which we knew nothing) orders were received that no unnecessary loss of life was to be risked, and so the crater caused by the explosion was not to be occupied.

On the morning of November 14th the Battalion took over Hill 60, and at 5 p.m. on November 15th the mines were exploded. At the same time the Turks were subjected to a very heavy artillery bombardment and machine-gun fire. A gigantic fountain of earth shot up and as, in spite of a protest on our part, we had to man the front line only about twenty yards from the Turks, 1 man was killed and 8 badly bruised by the falling debris, while others had to be sent to hospital suffering from shock. Large working parties immediately sapped forward and established bombing posts within a few

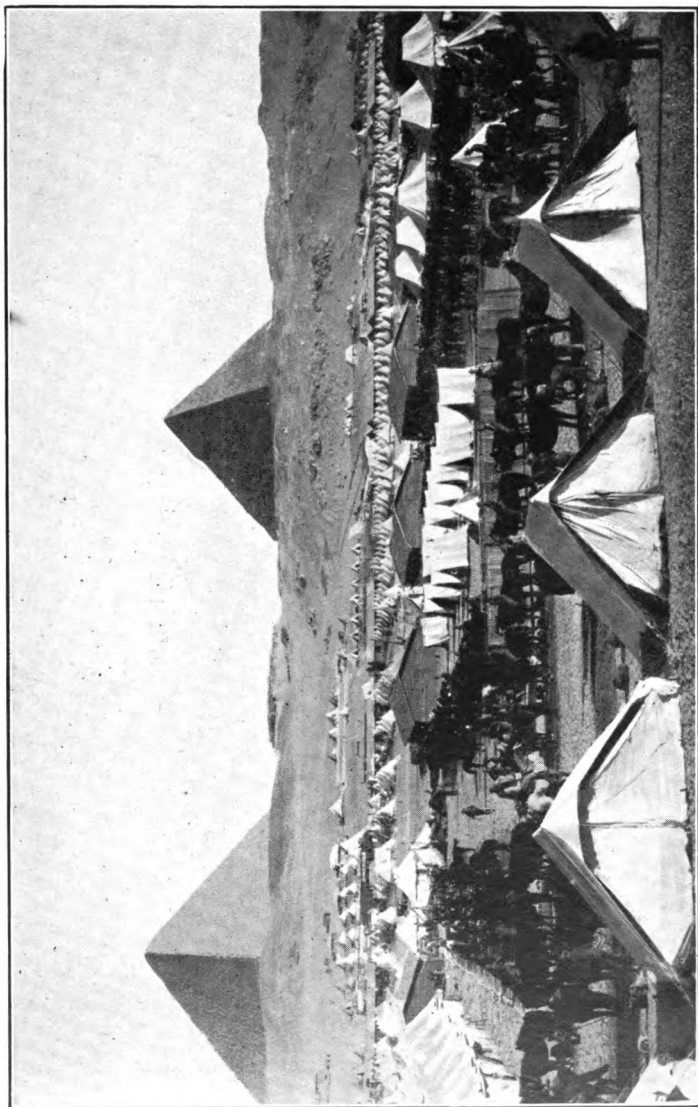
yards of the crater, where they did good work shooting and bombing. The Turkish losses must have been considerable, and their artillery and machine-gun fire became very active. The night was spent in continual bombing fights and sniping, and an enemy patrol that approached our trenches was severely handled, 3 being killed and 1 wounded and captured.

The explosion of the mine did not benefit us at all, for as we were ordered not to occupy the crater, the Turks did so. The sides being raised ten feet above the ordinary level gave them a good command over our trenches and they made things very unpleasant for us at times. One man was killed, 9 wounded, and 8 sent to hospital during this time. Four thousand rounds of S.A.A. and 712 bombs were expended. The following morning we were relieved, but the next morning, November 17th, we took over the hill again for the last time. We could hear the Turks mining underneath us, and we sincerely hoped that we should not be there when the trenches went up! The gallant Welsh Horse were hard at work day and night countermining, and "Have you heard them tamping?" became a popular phrase; tamping being the final operation before the explosion of a mine.

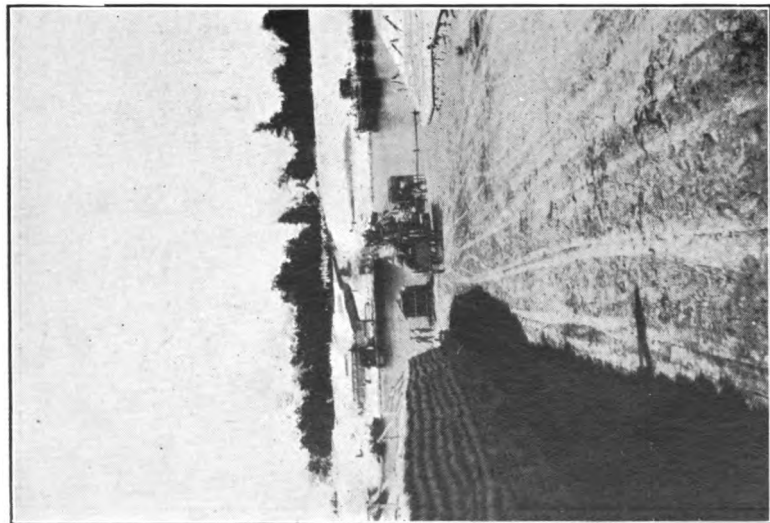
During this spell in the trenches we had a novel struggle with the Turks. As stated above, we had occupied our mine crater and had put out wire knife rests in front of it. Orders were issued that we should remove these. Of course, there is an orthodox method of doing this by shell fire, but owing to the recent landing of the Salonika Army the supply of artillery ammunition was short and the guns were limited to three rounds a day. So another method had to be devised. A bomb was attached to a thin rope, and efforts were made to throw it on to the knife rests in the hope that we should be able to pull them into our trench. The distance proving too great, the catapult gun was requisitioned. The first shot



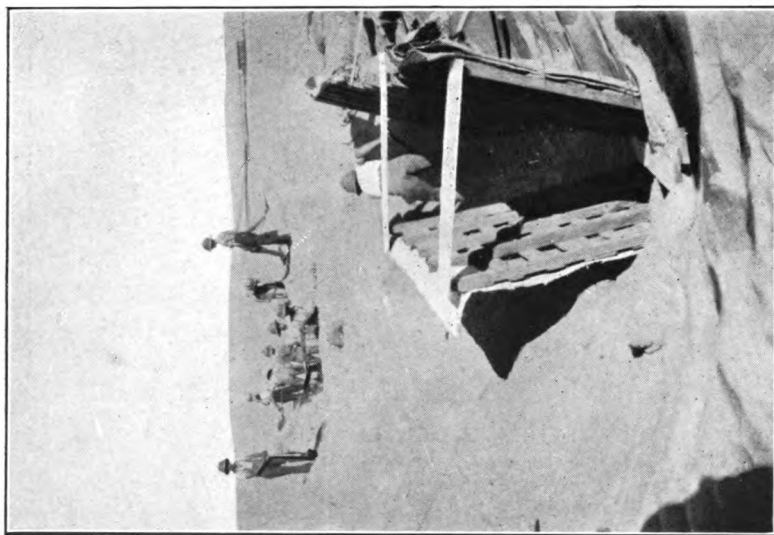
THE MENA ROAD.



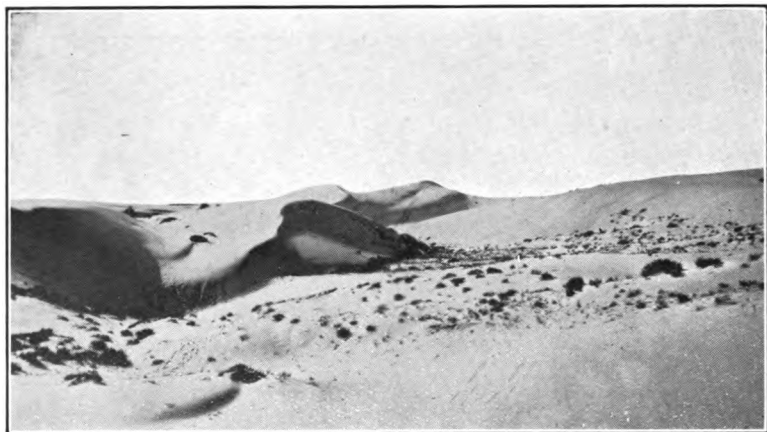
MENA CAMP.



SUEZ CANAL.



TRENCH-MAKING, SALFORD POST.



THE DESERT, EL ARISH.



THE WIRE-NETTING ROAD, SINAI.

fell short, so the range was lengthened, and this time instead of alighting on the wire the bomb fell into the Turkish trenches. Before it could be hauled back, the Turks had seized the rope and for some time a regular tug-of-war took place. From both sides could be heard hearty laughter and shouts of encouragement, inciting the teams to still further efforts. The numbers in the mutually invisible teams rapidly increased and all pulled like the Metropolitan Police, the rope giving sometimes one way and sometimes another. After a gigantic effort the crisis was passed and we all lay sprawling in the bottom of the trench. The Turks had cut the rope! The honours were even — we had the rope, he had the bomb.

During this period at Hill 60 we lost 1 Officer and 8 men to hospital. S.A.A. expended 7,200, and 1,032 bombs.

On the morning of November 20th we were relieved by the 1/7th Essex, and at 2.45 p.m. the Turks exploded their mine under Turkey Trot, inflicting several casualties on the garrison.

For some time big flocks of migrating geese had been pressing south over Gallipoli, and some men in the trenches, to relieve their boredom, started to blaze away at them. But this proved infectious and, day by day, the firing continued, and even machine-guns took part in the fun. The Turks soon joined in the game, and their rifles could be seen pointing straight up into the air above their parapets. A rattle of musketry proceeding from the British and Turkish trenches on the flank did not mean that an attack was taking place, but merely that the geese were coming, and finally strict orders were issued that firing at geese must cease. Only one goose was known to have been brought down as a result of all our efforts, and as that observed strict neutrality by falling in "No Man's Land" no one benefited.

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: From now onwards the weather became extremely cold culminating in a three-day blizzard from November 27th to 29th inclusive. The Battalion suffered severely, as orders had been received for the Division to proceed to Mudros for a much needed rest, and preparations for the move had been made. The carefully constructed bivouacs had been dismantled and all were ready to march off, when, owing to the rough weather, it was found impossible to embark at Anzac and the move was postponed. The occasional showers of rain and sleet turned into a downpour of tropical intensity, accompanied by a terrific thunderstorm, and every one was soaked to the skin. The water-scoured gullies had given us some idea of the severity of the storms, but no one expected such a heavy downpour. The trenches became rivers and the gullies raging torrents. The rain was followed by a piercing north wind and a black frost. With the north wind came snow, and the tempest grew into a veritable blizzard. *The Times History of the War* states: "Since the days of the Crimea no British Army had been exposed to more suffering from the elements."

Perhaps a few extracts from the Battalion War Diary would be appropriate:

"November 26th. Heavy fatigue to Anzac and Hill 60 during day. Weather very cold and shows signs of becoming bad, i.e., much more wind and occasional showers of sleet and rain. At 3 p.m. a message was received to the effect that 'The 54th Division is to proceed to Mudros on night 27th/28th November to rest.' Also that all baggage is to be transported to North Beach to-night. This was done, including Officers' kits, valises, and mess boxes, as no more transport was to be available from to-night.

"November 27th. At 12 midday the Battalion paraded for inspection in marching order. Bivouac area cleaned

up as well as possible, the weather being the worst possible, blinding gale of wind, snow, and freezing fast, dug-outs mostly filled with water, but all ranks quite fit and prepared for move. 2 p.m.: Message received 'Brigade will not move to-night!' Hurried reconstruction of bivouacs commenced, Officers very worried at idea of night in present quarters minus blankets, etc. Unavoidable.

"November 28th. Miserable day spent in trying to get dug-outs free of water. No abatement of blizzard. Still expecting to move to-night. (Did not do so.)

"November 30th. Weather improved, wind dropped, and we had some sun, but the frost did not come out of the ground at all. Officers went for blankets, but still expecting to move to-night." It should be noted that the men still retained their blankets, as they were carried. We did not move until December 6th.

During this period fresh water was difficult to obtain, and all ranks were on half-rations owing to the difficulty of getting up supplies. The cold weather had quite put a stop to dysentery, but jaundice became very prevalent. To add to our troubles, since Bulgaria had joined our enemies, Germany had been able to send the Turks ample supplies of munitions. The immediate consequence of this was that the Turkish artillery fire had become much more active, especially in searching the rest areas behind the front line.

Eventually, after many warnings and cancellations, the Battalion, consisting of 19 Officers and 249 other ranks, embarked on H.M.T. "Osmanieh" during the night of December 6th/7th. At 2 p.m. on December 7th the Battalion landed at Mudros, and marched to Portiano Rest Camp, where it remained eight days. Every one was thoroughly done up and in a very weak condition. On December 9th a draft of 2nd Lieuts. F. Oakley and A. R. Alston and 48 other ranks joined us, and also 11

men returned from hospital. On December 11th a medical inspection of the whole Battalion, including the new arrivals, was held, and the result shows how greatly the strain of the hard campaign culminating with the blizzard had told on the Battalion :

	Class A	B	C	Total.
Officers 19	3	0	22
Other Ranks 43	242	23	308

Only 43 fit men out of a total of 308, of whom 48 were new arrivals who had never seen Gallipoli! During these four months we had lost in killed, missing, wounded, or sent to hospital, 782 men and about 36 Officers.

No records as to the amount of ammunition expended were kept before September 7th, but from that date to November 22nd, excluding machine-gun ammunition, 53,662 rounds of S.A.A. were fired, and over 3,500 bombs were thrown by the Battalion.

From the above figures an idea can be gained of the exacting nature and the strenuous conditions of the campaign, and the pride of every man who managed to hold on for the whole of the occupation can be understood.

This period proved to be the Battalion's worst experience during the war. Thereafter it never came up against such a succession of unceasing and continual hardships of all kinds. The four months spent on Gallipoli were a stern and incessant struggle against a stubborn and determined enemy, disease, great natural difficulties, and a shortage of all necessities, including those essential to health and life. Never before had we realized how precious a thing is water.

It can be easily imagined that after the short rations and the absence of luxuries like fresh vegetables and fruit on the Peninsula, such supplies as could be obtained at Lemnos, e.g., eggs and oranges, even at fabulous

prices, were eagerly sought for. Unbroken sleep and quietness, freedom from the booming of guns, the cracking of rifles, and the bursting of bombs, from the fumes of explosives, and the stench of corpses, were enjoyed to the full. Three days of this life changed a jaded Battalion into the cheeriest of troops, and every evening between "First Post" and "Lights Out" each tent had its singing or whistling choir.

On December 15th the Battalion, strength 19 Officers and 308 other ranks, embarked on H.M.T. "Victorian" with the remainder of the Brigade, one Officer and a platoon being left behind at Mudros to guard the Divisional Transport.

On December 19th we disembarked at Alexandria, and, after marching to Ramleh tram station, were conveyed by tram to Sidi Bishr, where our camp was to be pitched.

We had reached the land of peace and plenty at last !

CHAPTER IV.

EGYPT AND THE SUEZ CANAL.

THE history of the Battalion in Egypt forms a very vivid contrast to that of the preceding four months as sketched in the previous pages. The first camp was by the sea—but with what a difference! Instead of a busy beach with all the life and bustle of a sea-port, instead of all the haste and interruption due to the shelling of the Turk, there was peace; no wharves, no shipping, no communication trenches, and last, but not least, no working or carrying parties. Instead of dug-outs, cramped space and crowding, there were orderly lines of tents, open ground, and rolling country. Instead of the chatter of the machine-gun, the crack of the rifle, the boom of the naval guns, and the banging of 75's, there was silence. The many-sailed windmills moved gently in the breeze and added a quaint touch to the novelty of our surroundings. True, fatigues still called urgently for attention, and a complete rest could not be had, but the surroundings were so peaceful and placid as to seem unreal.

When the camp had been put "ship-shape and Bristol fashion" we had time to look round and make ourselves acquainted with Alexandria and its novelties. We had little luck in our camps, and this was no exception to the rule, for it was the farthest out and the road ended abruptly about half a mile from the camp in heavy sand. Still, we did not consider, as we might have done six months before, that we had a grievance. The beach was perfect for bathing and varied by charming rocks and coves. The camels and the donkeys provided endless fun. After the day's work you would find about a score of

"boys" at the camp each leading a donkey. The "boys" varied in age from 4 to 50. As you approached there was a babel and you were surrounded by a jostling shouting crowd, each crying the merits of his own mount: "He big fellow!" "He fast!" "No good—no money!" "Very good horse donkey!" Generally you chose the nearest and jumped on; the crowd melted, and there you were off to the joys of Alex.! The donkey boy ran behind, crying "Aah! Aah!" and occasionally twisting the donkey's tail to urge him to greater efforts. In the mile and a half to the tram one passed countless other camps, donkeys, Egyptian coastguards on camels, Arabs on their horses, six-horse teams double tandem in service wagons, motors, and numberless other sights—all interesting and all for one big piastre.

Catching a tram seems a simple matter, but here it was otherwise, for there was generally a queue of from 200 to 300 lined up, waiting their turn to board the occasional tram. It came to those who waited, and half a piastre carried one to town. There were shops and streets and restaurants, all looking very cheery and wonderful, particularly at night. There, too, were women and men of all kinds and many nationalities, whose diverse costumes were a pleasant change after the universal khaki of Gallipoli. There also were the varied native costumes and vehicles. It seemed as if we could never exhaust its possibilities or be proof against the boot-blacks that formed the greater proportion of its population, and who, if you stopped for a moment in the street, would have one boot polished before you knew it.

On January 25th a strong wind blew from the Mediterranean, and increasing in the night, overcame all efforts to maintain our tents upright. The sound of the mallet was abroad in the land for the greater part of the night; but it was in vain, and morning saw a fearful scene of devastation. Scarcely a tent was left standing,

and the gorgeous cinema marquee just erected near the tramway was a mass of shapeless ruin.

The next move came all too soon, and February 2nd found us striking camp and entraining for "somewhere else" in Egypt. The trip took us through the emerald green of the Delta; and the farming life of Egypt provided a fascinating scene as we sped on. The water-wheels with the patient buffalo plodding on his endless round, the primitive wooden ploughs sometimes drawn by a camel and donkey—ludicrous pair!—the supercilious camels, the numerous donkeys with the native attendants, the native villages, and all the swarming life were novel, even after Alexandria.

We arrived at Cairo at dusk, and found ourselves plodding along an excellent asphalt road. The pyramids, silhouetted against the sky in the light of the moon, looked quite close, and as our camp was to be near them at Mena, we stepped out gaily. But as we advanced they appeared to recede. We had not had many opportunities for route marches on the Peninsula, and soon had the fact brought home to us. The road seemed to go straight on for ever. Would it never end? Motors passed us, and we watched their rearlights fade away until they vanished in the distance. At last, however, we came to the proverbial turning and struck across the desert; the sand yielding at every step, and apparently stretching endlessly. We reached camp just after midnight, having marched some twelve miles. The tea and meal the advance party had made ready were more than welcome.

The next morning we could admire the pyramids towering up on a ridge, about a mile to the south of the camp. Yesterday's performance had been enough in the way of exercise, so climbing them was postponed while we occupied ourselves with camp fatigues. The camp was a fine one, with a view of Cairo and the citadel, but we

sadly missed the sea. Still we found the tram carried us the eight miles to Cairo for half a piastre, and on the way were the Zoo and the Museum. The streets of Cairo were themselves a continual show, with pedlars innumerable, selling carpets, oranges, cigarettes, roses, rabbits, tables, statuettes, walking sticks, cakes, beads, and so on. Uniforms of every kind could be seen, the Mousky and the Mosques provided endless entertainment, and in our two months' stay we did not nearly exhaust the possibilities of Cairo. The Zoo was probably the most popular place, and "Said," the hippo., who answered his keeper's call, the most popular personage in it. Next came the bazaar with all its wonders.

On the 8th February Gen. Maxwell, G.O.C. Egypt, inspected the Division, thereafter the Division commenced training. As the weather was not unpleasantly hot until the end of March, we marched, worked, and trained until we felt quite ourselves again. In this month, however, we had our first experience of the *Khamsin*—a wind that blows from the south as from a furnace for three days. Fine sand fills the air and darkens the sun. It penetrates everywhere and is the cause of a thirst that is priceless when there are satisfactory ways of quenching it.

Owing to ill-health Lieut.-Col. Miers left us on February 26th. Major and Adjutant H. M. Lawrence, to the satisfaction of all concerned, was given command, Major H. T. Copinger Hill being appointed Second in Command, and Capt. A. S. Parker, Adjutant.

During January and February 14 new Officers reported their arrival; amongst them being 2nd Lieuts. C. M. Fyson, H. C. Goldsmith, A. Fair, T. O. Taylor, C. C. Reed, R. E. Steward, and Capt. Crichton (R.A.M.C.), Capt. H. J. W. Oxlade rejoined.

In March a draft of 1 Officer (Lieut. T. J. Catchpole) and 338 other ranks arrived. These included the whole of the Battalion transport, which had been left

in England on embarkation, and 70 men who had been evacuated from Gallipoli. The issue of animals and the institution of a riding-school also indicated more activity for the Battalion. It was eager to take its share in the work that cried aloud to be done, and it was with real joy that it welcomed the warning of a move.

At 10 p.m. on March 30th we marched off to Cairo; entraining at 2 a.m. and arriving at Shaluffa on the banks of the Suez Canal at 11 a.m. after a dreary night journey in cattle trucks. Here we viewed with interest the border of the Desert of Sin—that limitless expanse of sand that was to be our home for the next nine months. From there we marched to Geneffe, which we took over from the 1/5th East Lancashire Regt. (42nd Division) the following day.

About every ten miles along the Canal was a permanent pontoon bridge. From the bridge-head on the east bank a light railway ran roughly seven miles due east to rail-head. Parallel with the railway was a macadamized road. At rail-head this road split into two portions leading to the north and south road-head. Each sector of about ten miles was, at this time, normally manned by a Brigade; one Battalion being at bridge-head and on the banks of the Canal; one at rail-head; and two in the front line about a mile east of the road. The Battalion at bridge-head manned the Canal posts and provided frequent patrols along the banks. These were to prevent the repetition of successful exploits of the enemy in sowing mines in the Canal, and also to check any enemy agents or unauthorized traffic. During 1915 the Turks had laid several mines which they had brought on camels across the desert, and one vessel had been sunk, and the Canal blocked for fourteen hours.

The Battalion at rail-head occupied its time with training. The front-line Battalion was split up into company, and sometimes platoon, posts. During the night

the posts were manned and the usual patrols sent out. The day was spent in digging trenches, constructing dug-outs and wiring posts.

Geneffe, our first station, was a post on the banks of the Canal just south of the Little Bitter Lake, garrisoned by the whole Battalion. Here we dug trenches and erected formidable barbed-wire entanglements by day, which we garrisoned by night. Geneffe was a busy landing stage, too, for stone was being landed all day for the road into the desert. Endless dhows were unloading and the stone being carried away by little toy engines (made in Germany), by camel, by G.S. wagon, and by motor lorry. Capt. Oxlade's versatility was exemplified as Wharf Master. The Canal provided excellent bathing, and the water-sports held in the middle of April were a huge success.

At this time we stood to arms at 5 a.m., breakfasted at 5.30, worked from 6 to 10.30 and from 3 to 5 p.m., and stood-to again at 6.15 p.m. Only one Company was on outpost duty each night.

On the 25th of April H.R.H. the Prince of Wales visited the front and embarked at Geneffe.

During April Capt. F. Wyatt joined, and at the beginning of May we moved to the front line, eight miles east of the Canal; and the Battalion occupied the two posts of Salford and Oldham. Here we experienced our worst *Khamsin*. For three days it blew, the temperature in the shade being 122° and water being short! As the water came by barge, train and camel combined, it was surprising it was so regular.

Entrenching was no light task. The sand was so fine that in order to reach a depth of 6 ft. the sand taken out had to be thrown 12 ft. from the trench. Each trench had to be reveted with boards and matting, and each revetment well anchored or braced. Nature was continually fighting against our work. Even the barbed

wire entanglement served to collect sand which gradually rose and threatened to submerge the wire. The trenches were covered with matting while unoccupied, but, in spite of this, required constant cleaning out. Flies increased in spite of all precautions, and the fact that "stand-to" was now at 3.45 a.m. curtailed the hours of rest.

During May Lieut. G. G. Warnes, E. M. Ashton, and P. W. B. Ashton rejoined, and 2nd Lieut. T. P. Rogers and 55 other ranks joined.

At the end of May the Battalion moved, with much baggage, and by a very indirect and badly-timed route to Serapeum rail-head—about twenty miles north. From here it went to the front-line, splitting up into company posts at Peters Peak and Habieta.

This was the scene of the Turkish attack on the Canal in February 1915. Some cartridge shells and iron-shod hoofs of oxen were all the relics that now remained to mark their camps.

Six hours' work per day was steadily carried out on the defences. But the very heavy dew quickly rotted sand-bags, and a continual effort to reduce the garrisons and the number of posts to release a mobile force involved constant reorganization and fresh work.

The training on defensive lines was model, for there was always a possibility that a raiding-party of Turks would try to break through or capture a front-line post. Enemy forces, variously estimated at from 500 to 1,000 strong, were frequently reported opposite our front, and the keenest vigilance was always necessary, although no Turk was ever seen here by this Battalion. The only enemy seen was an aeroplane which dropped some bombs on Serapeum on June 13th. Still, the possibility that the Turks would repeat their attack of the previous December kept everyone alert, and resulted in the greatest keenness.

The posts varied in size. Until June they comprised a company, and were separated by about three-quarters of a mile. After that they consisted of a platoon or a half-company. They were all amply protected by wire entanglements, had excellent fire trenches, and stores of food and water sufficient to last for three or four days. Complete in themselves they were an ideal command, and gave every one practical experience in wiring, entrenching, and the construction of dug-outs.

The day's work during the summer was very much the same. The posts "stood-to" at hours varying according to the season of the year; the most unpopular hour was 3.30 a.m. ! After about an hour, if the day was clear, the garrison stood down, had gun-fire tea, and did an hour's work before breakfast. After breakfast two hours' more work was done, and then the garrison tried to rest until 4 p.m., when work was recommenced. The nights were generally cool with a very heavy dew. The mornings very often saw a thick fog roll down, covering everything to within about fifty yards, and causing anything but pleasure to a garrison just due to stand down. Often it lifted and entirely vanished, only to return in about fifteen minutes' time. It was never a welcome visitor.

Every fourth month the Battalion went into Brigade reserve, and did training near rail-head. This was not very popular, but was more than compensated by there being no "stand-to."

The reliefs and moves on the desert sand were highly unpopular although always provocative of a good deal of amusement. Every one naturally accumulated a lot of baggage, and with much gurgling and groaning it was loaded on the camels and started on the journey. Fortunately none of the moves were long, and the experience in loading proved invaluable later. At the time the camels and the order and nature of the load provided a

series of problems, interesting enough, but rather trying when worked out against time.

Until July 16th no leave was obtainable, but on that date short leave to Egypt opened.

On the 1st of August a great celebration of Minden Day was arranged. The desert blossomed with roses and the camels groaned under their precious loads of cases of bottled beer. But "man proposes and the staff disposes," and we spent the afternoon moving to rail-head, Serapeum, where Lieut.-Col. F. H. A. Wollaston, D.S.O., Rifle Brigade, assumed command of the Battalion. 2nd Lieut. G. G. Oliver rejoined, and 2nd Lieuts. H. B. Jillings, A. H. Godfrey, and D. Green joined us.

On August 4th orders to move were received at midnight. Tents were struck, all baggage loaded, and we marched out of camp at 5 a.m. to bridge-head, where we entrained to Moascar. From there we marched through Ismailia to Ferry Post. The local French band headed the column, and as the Battalion had been exiled on the sands for over four months it was with keen appreciation that it marched through the beautiful avenue of trees, and passed the cool and pleasant houses that border them. From bridge-head we went by train or lorry to rail-head, and thence across the sand to posts, where we relieved the 2/10th Middlesex and 2/4th Queens. The relief took place at most posts about midnight, and the Battalion, which had had practically no rest or sleep and only scanty haversack rations, felt it had done quite enough by that time. They settled down to occupy the Sphinx, Round Hill, Plateau, and Katoomba Posts. The unsuccessful attack on Romani was taking place at this time, and this was the cause of the hurried move.

The Battalion here suffered a great loss in the promotion of Major H. M. Lawrence to command the 1/5th Cheshires in the 53rd Division. It was mainly due to his enthusiasm and popularity that the Battalion was re-

cruited practically to full strength before the War. He knew the majority of the men personally, and the N.C.O.'s were almost all men who had had the benefit of his training. A keen disciplinarian, he always tempered justice with kindness, and his own example of good-humoured obedience to orders never failed to evoke a similar spirit in all ranks.

Even after he left us he remained our staunch friend, and it is not too much to say that whatever credit the Battalion gained later on was felt to be largely due to his abiding influence.

On September 12th we were relieved by the 1/4th Cheshires and 1/5th Welsh, and took over the Serapeum bridge-head, C Company going to Toussoum and D Company to Deversoir. We rejoiced in the pleasures of bathing again. Here, too, was found the drag track. Each night a broad strip of sand was swept smooth along the whole of our front and examined in the morning for footmarks. Invisible at night it proved a valuable record of every visitor. Deversoir provided a guard on the fishing boats on the Little Bitter Lake, and received a welcome toll of one-half the catch. Patrols made heavy demands for night work, and for a month at Toussoum only one man was excused each night; guards were continually turning out for passing naval vessels.

On October 12th we moved to rail-head, and the Battalion was in one camp for the first time since April. On the 25th October the Commander-in-Chief inspected the defences, and on the 26th a general holiday was given, owing to his satisfaction with the work.

On November 14th we marched fifteen miles across the desert to the front line. This was our first move across the desert. The companies found it much pleasanter than the "loop the loop" moves by train; but the camel convoy did a larger "loop the loop" on the desert! The first rain we had seen since January was

hailed with cheers. On the 28th there was a readjustment of the line, and Battalion Headquarters moved from Roundhill to Gazelle Heights. The Rev. E. D. Rennison, C.F., arrived, bringing a distinct air of the Emerald Isle and a cheeriness that never deserted him.

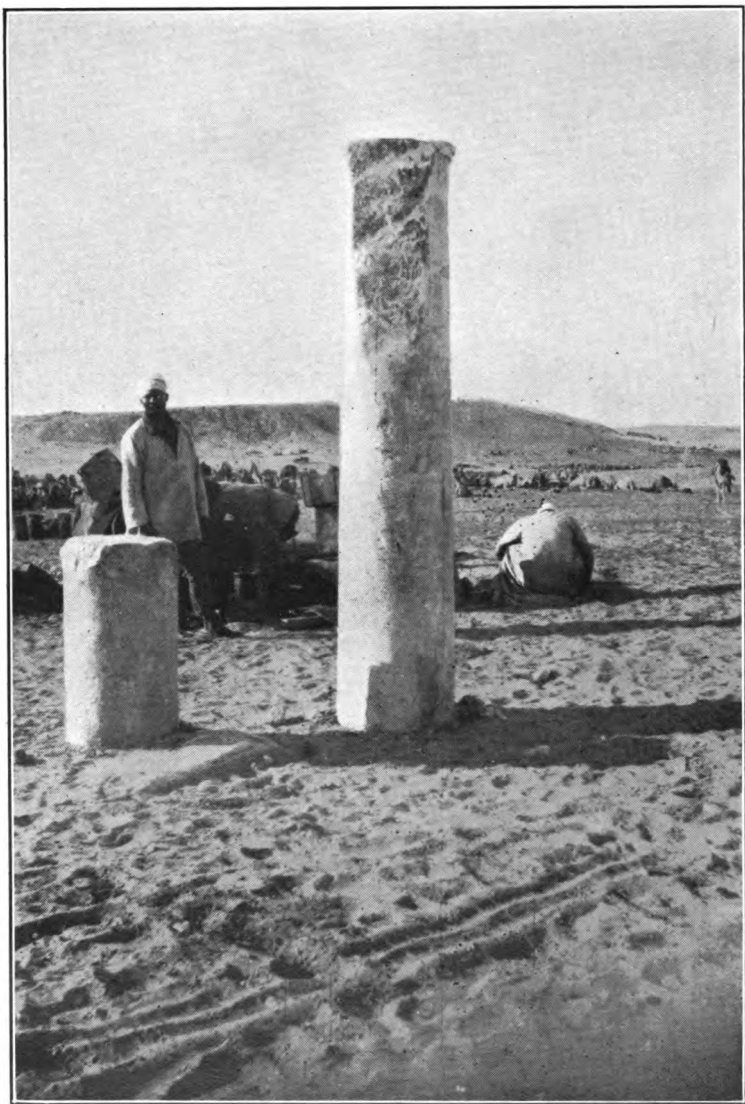
Conditions were now reasonably comfortable, and the desert was wonderfully exhilarating. Christmas 1916 at Gazelle Heights, Habieta, Mount Lofty, and the Sphinx, will be remembered by all as one of the happiest that they spent during the War.

A short service was held at 7 a.m. The cooks provided an excellent breakfast at 8 a.m., and during the morning inter-platoon football matches were played, concluding with an issue of a pint of beer per head. A real Christmas dinner of ham, sausages, green peas, and plum pudding, with another precious pint, made us forget our surroundings for the time. The afternoon saw boxing contests and various sports. Tea produced the luxury of Egyptian eggs, cakes, and oranges, and a whist drive concluded a really enjoyable day. The Brigadier concluded his Christmas wishes with the hope that next year we would be nearer the enemy—a hope that was abundantly fulfilled. Even the weather lent a Christmas touch: a sharp wind, thunder, and heavy hail accounting for a good many tents.

On January 1st came the welcome orders to salvage all material from occupied posts, and on the 8th to move to Moascar for divisional training. Our posts, although nearing completion, were gladly scrapped, and with light hearts the Battalion marched into Moascar, near Ismailia.

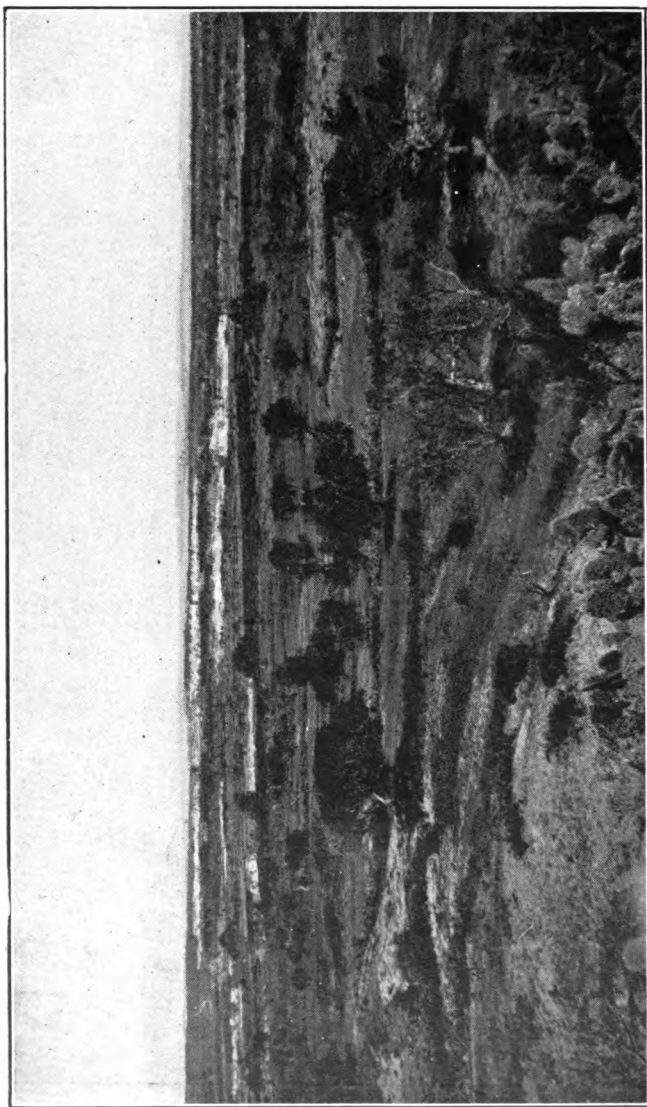
Here the Division spent a month in good hard training which left every one fit and as keen as mustard to meet the Turk again.

Every one remembers those route marches along the hard road with full equipment in the burning sun. Oh, how our feet, softened by the desert sands, ached!



FRONTIER PILLARS, RAFA.

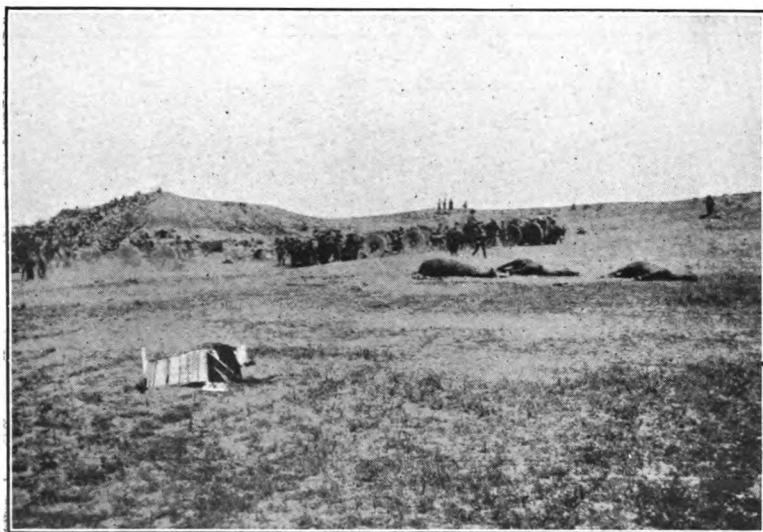
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GAZA FROM ALI MUNTAR.



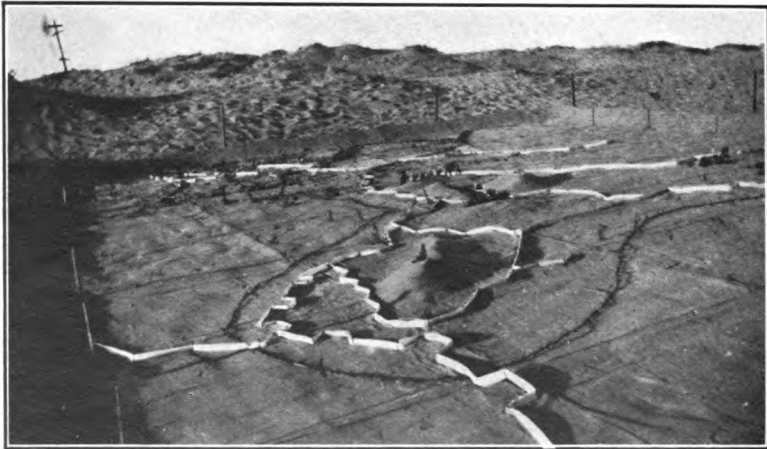
MANSURA RIDGE, 27-3-17.



MANSURA RIDGE, 27-3-17.



RESTING AT IN-SEIRAT (CAPTS. ROWLEY AND WARNES).



MODEL OF EL ARISH REDOUBT.

One remembers many agonizing moments spent removing boots on return to camp, and how many a blister was burst under the eye of Sergt. Foster and his staff of bearers. We realized the necessity of the hard training afterwards, as many weeks of marching on hard road and soft sand lay before us on the morning we struck camp at Moascar.

On March 1st the Brigade left Moascar en route for Palestine to tread the ancient desert route which thousands of years ago was trodden by the armies of ancient Egyptians and Assyrians. That night it stopped at Ferdan on the west bank of the canal, and the following day crossed the canal by the pontoon bridge and camped at Kantara. This was the terminus of the desert railway and the base for the advance.

From there we proceeded by short daily marches over a splendid wire road to the East. The days' marches were very much alike, varying from five to nine miles under a cloudless sky. Walking on the wire-netting road was like walking on velvet, and as the bivouacs were invariably on sand, and the weather gloriously fine, conditions were very pleasant.

The railway alongside the road was running well, and the engines and carriages loomed very large, and looked very powerful after our toy lines farther south. The huge pipe-line, destined to carry the waters of Egypt two hundred miles across the desert, and so fulfil the prophecy that Palestine would only be conquered when the Nile flowed through it, was a solid guarantee that we should not go thirsty. Sir Archibald Murray in his despatch of the 1st March 1917 says: "To regain this Peninsula, the true frontier of Egypt, hundreds of miles of road and railway had been built, hundreds of miles of water piping had been laid, filters capable of supplying 1,500,000 gallons of water a day, and reservoirs had been installed, and tons of stone transported from distant

D

provinces. Kantara had been transformed from a small canal village into an important railway and water terminus, with wharves and cranes, and a railway ferry, and the desert, till then almost destitute of human habitation, showed the successive marks of our advance in the shape of strong positions firmly entrenched and protected by hundreds of miles of barbed wire, of standing camps where troops could shelter in comfortable huts, of tanks and reservoirs, of railway stations and sidings, of aerodromes and of signal stations and wireless installations, by all of which the desert was subdued and made habitable, and adequate lines of communications established between the advancing troops and their ever-receding base."

On the 3rd we reached Gilban, where the great "Tank" secret was learned. There had been rumours for some weeks, and, in spite of all official denials on the subject, it was fairly well known that they had been landed at Alexandria. We now saw this new engine of war for the first time. On the 4th we camped at Pelusium, and on the next day at Romani, where we received a very welcome draft, which included a large number of the original battalion. Near camp were the first date-palm groves that we had seen since Kantara. There was ample water, and in the distance was Katia itself, with a large date-palm grove, near which our Yeomanry had been surprised in April 1916. Farther off was the small post of Dueidar, which had successfully repulsed a determined Turkish attack during our 24 hours' move through Ferry Post to the Round Hill Sector on August 4th last. A march over the sands to the sea at Mohamadieh will be remembered by all who went. We remained five days resting and training. On the 11th we left, and the following five days steadily moved on, camping in turn at Rabah, Khirba, Bir-el-Abd, Salmana, and Tillul. At the last-named we experienced heavy

rain and a thunderstorm. On the 16th we reached Mazar. The Divisional Band played us in, which augured good things; and they came true. Tents were drawn, and we remained a week, during which a mail from home arrived. A draft also arrived, bringing news and some familiar faces. We spent the week doing training.

On the 23rd we left Mazar, and noted on our way to Maadan patches of flowers on the northern sides of sheltered sandhills. Bright red poppies, yellow daisies, and smaller flowers varied the monotony of the day's march.

From Maadan we saw with interest the minaret of the Mosque of El Arish against the distant sky. On leaving we marched across flats that are covered by water at a certain season of the year. The glittering salts on the sand gave it the appearance of a beautiful shimmering lake, which retreated as one advanced. The leading battalions looked as if they were wading through it. It was said that the Brigade Advance Party started to march round it!

We camped at Bardawil where a large aerodrome excited our attention, and numerous blockhouses, looking like toy models, showed that raids were considered likely.

On February 25th El Arish was reached. The Battalion marched past General S. W. Hare, the G.O.C Division, who expressed himself as well pleased with its bearing and commended its marching as the best in the Brigade.

El Arish looked well from a distance and, as the first town we had seen on the desert, aroused great interest. The fort showed signs of the shelling the Navy had administered, but the town itself, with its blind mud-brick walls facing its narrow streets, had little to attract. The Mosque was a very modest one, and the Administrator's building was solid but plain. The few inhabitants, fair-

skinned, and looking cheerful and fit enough, were unlike the Egyptian type and recalled memories of the last European Army that had marched over this route, led by Napoleon. There was a fair amount of cultivation round the village. Small melon plantations followed the course of the Wadi; fig trees grew along its banks, and lovely date-palms studded the sands and clustered near its mouth. The chief interest was the new part near the coast, where the railway station was a scene of busy life, and dumps of forage, rations, and R.E. material were being steadily accumulated. There were large camps scattered over the hills and numerous canteens to supplement our rations, while delightful sea bathing added greatly to the *joie de vivre*.

At the beginning of March a Turkish aeroplane came over very high up, and the "Archies" flecked the whole sky with white clouds without causing it any apparent uneasiness.

On the 7th of March we crossed the Wadi El Arish, and camped three miles east of it, behind the circle of sand hills which thousands of the Egyptian Labour Corps were busy turning into formidable strong posts of the Canal pattern. The Brigade had relieved a Brigade of the 52nd Division, which continued its march to Palestine. Our duties here consisted mainly of guarding wells, of which there were hundreds scattered over miles of country. At this camp the Divisional Gas Officer gave a lecture on gas, and provided a fresh form of training.

CHAPTER V.

THE BATTLES FOR GAZA.

THIS chapter deals with the three great battles of Gaza, in all of which the 54th Division was engaged. Before detailing the part taken by the Battalion during this period, a few preliminary remarks are necessary.

The first and second battles of Gaza were always a source of mystery and misunderstanding, not only in England, but also among the troops engaged, and it is to be feared that as a consequence opinions were formed and criticisms made which might have been different had all the circumstances been known. The despatch of Sir Archibald Murray dealing with these two battles was never completely published officially, and the whole truth was not known until the despatch was made public by General Murray towards the end of 1920. As the Battalion was so closely concerned in these battles, it is felt that a few general facts should be borne in mind in connection with them, however much the actual conduct of the operations may be criticized.

Sir Archibald Murray had reported to the War Office that he needed five infantry divisions, in addition to his cavalry, in order to defend Egypt by occupying and holding El Arish. At the time he had four Infantry Divisions, and before the advance on Gaza took place these were reduced to three, by the withdrawal of the 42nd Division to France. In spite of this he was ordered not only to hold El Arish, but also to prepare for an autumn advance on Jerusalem, a task which will be appreciated when it is remembered with how very much larger a force this object was ultimately attained by General Allenby.

The hurried preparations for the first battle of Gaza were rendered necessary by the importance of making the Turks stand and fight, instead of continuing their policy of evacuating each position as we approached it. The farther the Turks withdrew into Palestine the nearer they came to their bases and reinforcements, and the farther we got from our own base. It was therefore necessary to obtain a decision at a time and place suitable to us, and not of their choosing.

The same consideration rendered necessary the second battle of Gaza, General Murray having, between the two battles, been ordered to push his operations with all energy with the forces at his command.

The first attack on Gaza was to be carried out by the Desert Column, consisting of the two Mounted Divisions and the 53rd Division, the 53rd Division attacking Gaza in front, and the Mounted Divisions enveloping it from the east and north. The 54th Division was to be held in readiness at Sheik Abbas, except the 161st Brigade, which was detached for the purpose if necessary of helping the Desert Column. The 52nd Division was held in reserve at In Seirat.

The failure to take Gaza on March 26th was without doubt due to the delay caused by fog on that morning, and the retirement to In Seirat on the evening of the 27th was rendered necessary by the impossibility of maintaining the supply of food, water, and ammunition with rail-head so far back.

The second battle of Gaza was undertaken with the addition of the 74th Division, but still there were only four Infantry Divisions, while General Murray adhered to his estimate of five divisions being required even for the defence of Egypt. The Turks had worked hard in the interval with the result that our infantry had a much wider and much stronger front to attack, and the attack failed at every point.

In June Sir Archibald Murray was succeeded by General Allenby, and the arrival of considerable reinforcements during the summer, and the deliberate preparations that were possible, enabled a third and successful offensive to be undertaken in October and November.

With these preliminary remarks we may pass to the experiences of our Battalion after the stay at El Arish, which is recorded in the last chapter.

On the 20th of March the Brigade left El Arish, marching about seven miles to El Burj. From now on we marched only at night. The country began to show signs of cultivation, thin patches of oats being occasionally visible from the road.

The following day we reached Sheikh Zowaid through country steadily improving, and showing, in addition to more green, banks of brilliant red poppies. On the 24th March we arrived about 1 p.m. at Rafa, the boundary post between Sinai and Palestine, and the scene of the smart capture on January 9th of a body of 2,000 Turks, with guns and machine-guns. The scene of the engagement was marked by the remains of the trenches. The police post, a small dismal-looking building, now housing half a dozen prisoners, contained the remains of one of our abandoned aeroplanes, and not far from it were the boundary pillars, marking the beginning of the Turkish Empire. The ground itself was commonplace enough, but the knowledge that we were about to step again on Turkish territory fired our imagination.

Here we had at last arrived ready to try another tussle with the Turk, and meet him on his own ground. A greater contrast to the Gallipoli Peninsula could not be imagined. The ground around Rafa was brilliant green, and the country, as far as the eye could reach to the north and north-east, stretched away in gently rolling downs, with groups of trees here and there.

Before dawn on the 25th we moved forward, arriving by 7 a.m. in the gardens of peach and almond, surrounding Khan Yunis. We were hoping to surprise the Turk, and so we lay concealed during the day, while two enemy aeroplanes came over. The sand was out of sight; and it seemed as if the "Land of Promise" had been reached at last. All that hot Sunday we lay in the shadow of the trees, many attended a service which the Padre held; and then just as it was getting dusk we moved on again by devious routes and with many halts to In Seirat, where the Battalion bivouacked at 1 a.m. No matches or fires could be lit lest the Turk should know of our arrival. Every one was thoroughly tired, and as orders for an early move were given, we all tried to snatch some sleep. At 4 a.m., yawning, cold, hungry, but filled with something of the glamour the Crusaders must have felt, we fell in; but as the Mounted Infantry who were to precede us were delayed by a heavy fog, we stood by for two hours while they crossed the Wadi Ghuzze.

When this fine Division had crossed we pressed on, the Battalion being advance guard to the Brigade. The day was a glorious one; our objective—the ridge known as Sheikh Abbas—stood out clear and well defined. The Anzac Mounted Division could be seen riding ahead, examining every building, making good every ridge, and finally reaching the sky-line of Sheikh Abbas itself. Meanwhile, the Battalion, its eyes fixed on the two highest points, was pressing on knee-deep through fields of barley, heavy with dew. The many-coloured spring flowers shone like gems among the barley, and the green and golden carpet stretching as far as the eye could reach made a wonderful picture. It was a morning never to be forgotten.

In the distance was heard the booming of the guns, but no general engagement seemed to have begun, and the whole scene was a perfect picture of peace.

As the Battalion approached the ridge, the ground became more and more intersected by wadis with steep clay cliffs radiating in all directions. About noon, however, the sharp escarpment of Sheikh Abbas was reached and to the north undulating plains were seen stretching to the hills, apparently about ten miles away. Armoured motor cars were well to the front, and in the distance a column of Anzacs was winding its way behind Gaza.

The Battalion assembled at the foot of the escarpment on the right of the Brigade line with the 162nd Brigade on its right, and after a short rest commenced to dig trenches at the top of the cliff. The day was very hot (the hottest for months) and the ground was hard clay, so progress was very slow. Two cistern wells were found at Mesrefe, as marked on the map, and many water-bottles were filled with the aid of a mess tin and puttee, before an order was issued to prevent its use. No one suffered any ill effects from drinking it, and as will be seen this supply was invaluable later on.

In the afternoon fighting recommenced on our left. The slopes of Green Hill were the scene of a brilliant attack by the 158th and 159th Brigades of the 53rd Division, reinforced by the Essex Brigade. In this was the 1/5th Cheshires under Colonel Lawrence. For his gallantry in this attack he was awarded the D.S.O. The attack was vigorously pressed home and was completely successful.

Night fell about 6.30 p.m., when we were ordered to send two companies to relieve the Northants on our right. C and D Companies were detailed for this duty. A guide was provided, but after marching two or three hours in various directions (at one time directly to Gaza) he had to confess he was lost. We returned after much marching to the place we had set out from, and found that the 1/8th Hants were just moving off to Mansura. The lost and weary companies followed in their wake.

Slowly and silently, in single file, over rough boulders and narrow paths, the column moved down the wadis until 2 a.m., when we halted and had two hours' sleep, the Officers taking sentry duty in turn. No water or rations had arrived, although we learned afterwards they had come up to Brigade Headquarters, and early in the evening were within a few hundred yards of us.

At daybreak a convoy of camels, carrying wounded, was met with, that directed the column to Mansura, and by 7.30 a.m. we were in the Mansura basin itself. This is a depression about 100 feet deep in the centre, and covering an area of about 1 mile square. In it were assembled a Brigade of Artillery and nearly a Division of Infantry, composed of units of the 53rd and 54th Divisions, with all their mule transport. Col. H. M. Lawrence was seen looking very cheery. He had good reason to look otherwise. His Battalion had captured and spent the preceding night on Ali Muntar (the key to the Turkish defence), but had been ordered to evacuate this important position in conformity with a general retirement which was already in progress.

Finally, the right half of the Battalion was found in reserve near Brigade Headquarters. The Battalion got as close to the escarpment as possible, but A and B Companies had to take up a position in the open on a piece of ground as level as a billiard table. The Battalion at once dug in as quickly as possible.

Meantime the Turkish counter-attack was being strongly pressed home, and presented a remarkable scene. Our guns in the basin were firing as rapidly as they could at a body of advancing Turks, and were clearly making good shooting. But they had a very wide front to cover, and the Turk was widely extended and so did not suffer much loss. Meantime his guns had opened, and were concentrating on the limbers bringing up shells to the guns in the dip. These had to come over a sky-line.

They did so at the gallop, and made a fine sight with the enemy shells bursting all round. They had very few casualties. An aeroplane came over about 9 a.m. and spotted the Battalion at Headquarters crowded together at the front edge of the dip, and dropped a smoke bomb. The area immediately came under fire, but, fortunately, the great majority of shrapnel burst over the open space (about 150 yards) between the half-battalions. Several shells, however, swept A and B Companies, and exploded much lower than was usual with Turkish shrapnel, inflicting many casualties, in spite of the fact that every one was fairly well dug in. At about 10 a.m. one of our aeroplanes dropped a message near our Headquarters to say that enemy reinforcements were approaching from Beersheba.

About 3 p.m. an enemy battery came into action from Mesrefe, which we had left the previous night, and concentrated shrapnel-fire with great accuracy on the Battalion. We wished we had stopped at Mesrefe and seen some close fighting.

The total casualties of the Battalion were: 3 other ranks killed, and 1 Officer (2nd Lieut. R. C. Fyson) and 23 other ranks wounded.

A battery of our 18-pounders, switching their fire from the front to this flank, soon silenced the enemy battery. If the latter had got the position just a little more in enfilade the whole Brigade would have been open to direct fire with no cover.

The last of our water was now being drunk, and, owing to the intense heat, every one watched with anxious eyes for signs of the water camels. In the afternoon Lieut. T. O. Taylor, who was assisting the Staff Captain, rode up with the news that, owing to enemy shelling, the camels would not come until the evening.

As there had been no issue of water since 3.30 a.m. on the preceding day (except the unauthorized supply at

Mesrefe) most of the Battalion had to exist for more than two broiling and strenuous days and one sleepless night on one bottle of water. Our tongues were parched, and we counted the minutes to evening.

Meanwhile, fighting was going on about two miles to the left front. The Turk was attacking vigorously, and our line was forced to give way, until at last it was established about three-quarters of a mile in front of Mansura Ridge. In mid-afternoon Battalions of the 53rd Division started to form up and march back to Belah, much to the surprise of the whole Brigade.

At 7 p.m. water and ration camels arrived, and every-one drank his fill of water, filled his water-bottle, and had a meal from his iron rations. At 10.20 p.m. orders were issued for a withdrawal, and slowly, in column of route, with the jackals howling round, and the candle still burning at Brigade Headquarters, the Battalion marched by devious unknown paths to In Seirat. No one wished to go. All had food and water for another twenty-four hours, and were keen to hold their ground. But it was not to be, and for the third night we moved until, with eyelids heavy with sleep, we reached In Seirat, and found the cooks with fires blazing and hot cocoa ready. Never was a drink more welcome.

Near here we remained for three weeks, having brackish water for some seven days, and husbanding it like gold. A *Khamsin* blew for three days after our arrival; but we recked little of it while there was water to drink and the sea to bathe in. We held an outpost line at Ridge 310 for three days, and two bullocks obligingly wandered into A Company's lines and provided fresh meat. After our move back on April 2nd we were able to take off our boots at night—a very welcome relief. It was astonishing how hungry one got these days. The rations all seemed very scanty, and the bully beef and biscuits were finished to the last crumb.

A very welcome draft of 10 Officers and 70 other ranks, mostly A.S.C. men, arrived and made us nearly up to strength.

We now did gas drill, built roads (oh ! how slowly), and filled cisterns and wells for a further advance. B and C Companies had the only excitement of this period. While they were digging in the Wadi, one of our planes appeared flying very low, and apparently in difficulties. An enemy plane was close on his heels (or, to speak more correctly, his tail). Both were very low, but the Companies promptly concentrating their rifle-fire on the Turk induced him to go home. Our 'plane returned and waved his thanks for the assistance given.

The Turk apparently had only one gun of long enough range to reach In Seirat, and most days he hopefully dropped a few shells our way, with, luckily, no damage to us.

Early one morning the hospital at Deir el Bela was shelled either inadvertently or as a reprisal since a British shell had struck the Mosque in Gaza. This Mosque, as was afterwards proved by ocular demonstration, was used as an ammunition store, and practically blew itself up.

The advance commenced on the night of the 16th of April. The Brigade was to attack the Sheikh Abbas Ridge, and occupy it at dawn on the 17th. The 162nd Brigade was on the left, the 161st (Essex) in Divisional Reserve, and Camel Corps on the right.

The Battalion, as advance guard to the Brigade, moved off from camp at 11.30 p.m. on the 16th. It was a clear, fine night, but the line of pegs previously reconnoitred had been altered, and the Battalion had some difficulty in finding its way, but arrived at the rendezvous half an hour before the time fixed for the advance from this point. The tanks also had some difficulty and arrived late. Our first objective, Dumbbell Hill, was

secured at dawn, and by daybreak the ridge had been occupied, as it was held only by small outposts, that fled after firing a few shots. A tank, which had been christened Sir Archibald Murray, was hit by a Turkish shell just in front of our line, and catching fire was put out of action at once. No further advance was made that day. The Battalion dug trenches by day and night, and as many as possible reconnoitred "No Man's Land." The following day showed that the Turk had greatly improved his positions during the night by the erection of wire. During both these days we were shelled intermittently, but suffered no casualties.

On the 19th at 7.30 a.m., it then being broad daylight, the 1/4th and 1/5th Norfolks, supported by the 1/8th Hants, commenced the attack from the ridge. There was at most points more than a mile of almost level country with little cover to be crossed before the enemy trenches could be reached. A tank pushed on to Tank Redoubt, and held it till it was occupied by the 1/8th Hants. It was, however, put out of action by enemy artillery fire, and could not move from there.

The tanks had not given as much assistance as was expected, but a very large amount of artillery fire had been concentrated on them, and in that way they saved us many casualties. The Norfolks, on arriving about 800 yards from the enemy trenches, came under a very heavy and accurate belt of cross-fire from machine-guns, which swept ground entirely devoid of cover. They tried to press quickly on, but could not pass through the belt, and suffered very heavy casualties, nearly seventy-five per cent. of each Battalion being seriously wounded or killed. The 1/8th Hants, supporting, pressed on and occupied Tank Redoubt, but running short of ammunition, and being quite isolated, had to withdraw, leaving some prisoners. At midday we were ordered forward, but as the Brigade was thus left without any reserves,

were ordered to take up a line just short of the ground where the Norfolks had suffered so heavily. Our advance from Sheikh Abbas came under heavy artillery fire and long-range machine-gun fire, but very few casualties were suffered, although a large number had very narrow escapes, the bullets piercing their clothing. Here, just down the reverse slope of a ridge, trenches were hastily dug, and a line on a wide front organized. A, B, and C Companies were in the front line, and D in support.

At dusk Brigadier-General Ward rode out to inspect the position. At intervals throughout the day small parties of wounded Norfolks came back through the line. The groans and calls of the wounded could be heard, but to send a party into that belt meant certain death, and drew heavy searching fire on those that were there.

A most uncanny night was spent in fortifying what seemed a completely isolated position and in collecting the wounded, but just before dawn orders were received to withdraw. The total casualties of the Battalion were : 4 other ranks killed ; Capt. Oxlade, Lieuts. Fox, Norton, Reed, Ditton, and 78 other ranks wounded. The casualties of the Brigade were approximately 55 Officers and 1,800 other ranks.

The Battalion then withdrew to the dip in the Wadi Nukhabir, about three-quarters of a mile behind Sheikh Abbas, where there was good cover in small wadis with steep banks. Here it remained for ten days, and was occupied in digging trenches, and erecting wire by night along the line of Sheikh Abbas, which was garrisoned by the Essex Brigade. On the 29th it took over part of Sheikh Abbas from the 6th Essex, and that night an enemy mounted patrol approached one of our standing sentry groups. The Turks, one of whom was riding a white horse, drew our fire and then galloped away.

For gallant conduct in this action Capt. H. T. Copinger Hill was awarded the M.C., R.-S.-M. J. French the D.C.M., and Capt. and Adjutant A. S. Parker and Capt. Crichton, R.A.M.C., were mentioned in General Sir Archibald Murray's despatches.

Lieut.-Col. Wollaston was sometimes inclined to smile at the rather free-and-easy discipline considered characteristic of the Territorials. But he was very much struck by the advance of the 19th April, and his private diary records: "The way the Battalion went to the attack was an absolute picture, and though their peacetime discipline was very much *à la Territorial*, under fire it was more than excellent."

The following Brigade order was issued by Brig.-Gen. Ward on April 30th —

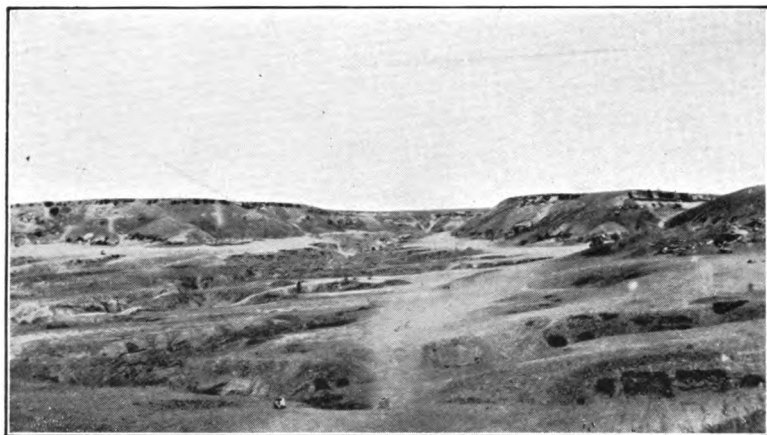
"A letter has been received by the Brigadier from Major-Gen. S. W. Hare, C.B., Cmd. 54th Division, with regard to the part played by the Brigade in the recent operations of the 19th instant. The G.O.C. publishes the following extract as the best means at his disposal of making known to all ranks General Hare's appreciation of their conduct on the day in question, an appreciation which will be highly valued by every one concerned, and which will be quoted with pride in the Regimental Records of the Units who took part in the battle:—

" 'Headquarters,

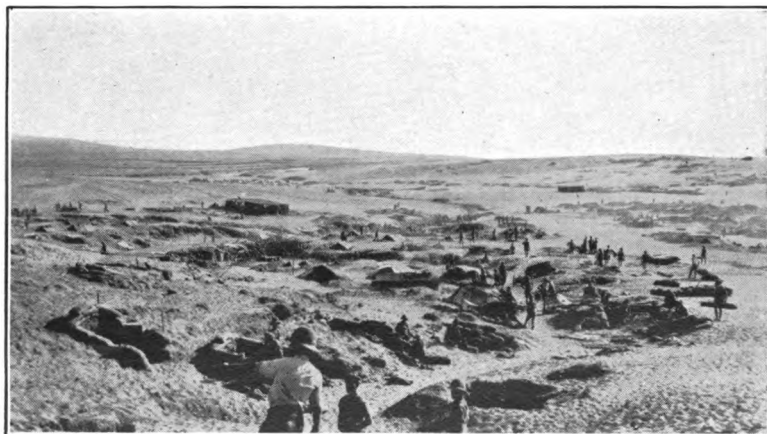
" '54th Division.

" '29/4/17.

" 'MY DEAR WARD,—Under present circumstances one has not a chance of seeing a Brigade or even a Unit together to speak to them. I would, therefore, be much obliged to you, if you would let all ranks in your Brigade know, by whatever means you find most convenient, how deeply I appreciate the truly splendid work they did. The handling of the



SHEIKH ABBAS.



APSLEY HOUSE.



AEROPLANE PHOTO. EL ARISH REDOUBT.



TURKISH TRENCHES EL ARISH REDOUBT.



THE GREAT MOSQUE, GAZA.



TURKISH TRENCHES. EL ARISH REDOUBT.

Brigade itself, and of all the Units in it, seems to have been worthy of the men the commanders had to lead, and I cannot say more than that. All ranks, those who fell, and those who survived, acted up to the very highest traditions of the British Army, and I do not believe any troops in the world could have done more, or shown greater gallantry or better discipline.—Yours very sincerely,
S. W. HARE, Major-General.' ”

A vigorous counter attack by the Turk at this time was expected. It was certainly the most favourable moment to him during the whole campaign here, but he displayed little initiative and no inclination to attack.

The positions were steadily improved, good trenches were dug in excellent ground and well wired in.

At the end of April Major B. E. Oliver, 2nd in Command, and the Adjutant, Capt. A. S. Parker, went on a Staff Course, their places being taken by Capt. H. T. Copinger Hill and Lieut. A. Fair.

The Battalion held these trenches near the apex at Sheikh Abbas until the 6th May, when it moved to a gully about half a mile in rear of Sheikh Abbas. About this time Turk aeroplanes became very active in night flying, and attacked with bombs and machine-guns some camps and moving columns. Although they were active the night of our move we suffered no casualties.

On May the 17th we took over the line from Mendur to Dumbbell Hill, the right flank of the front line. Our front covered 3,000 yards, and all Companies were in the line. The enemy positions were about three miles away. While here, we were visited by another *Khamsin*. It was intensely hot, and fine dry dust hung like a fog in the air.

E

During this time C Company distinguished itself by capturing a patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 6 other ranks that had approached their post. The patrol stated they were the advance guard of a raiding party of 150. Apparently their comrades were either aware of their fate or lost heart, as the only sign of their presence was a rocket in the distance. There had been discussion before this capture as to whether the barley in front of the posts should be burned away. It would provide an excellent smoke screen for an enterprising enemy, if he wished it. On the other hand, it crackled loudly when trodden on, and was as good as a warning bell on dark nights. This it was that betrayed the presence of the patrol and their whereabouts when they started to move. The decision to leave the barley seemed quite justified.

Patrols were sent nightly to the front to Baiket Abu Mailik and Asaferiyeh. The former was corrupted to "Bucket Aboo" until, for some mysterious reason, this was officially forbidden. Asaferiyeh proved too big a mouthful for most, and was seldom mentioned. On the night of the raid the sentry group at Bucket Aboo was informed by his Company Commander from the Company trenches in the rear, "We are raided!" Then the telephone broke! O.C. Group was relieved on his return to find his Company still there.

We could see small Turkish patrols some three or four miles away, and parties gathering the harvest. The Turk was reported to be preparing to use gas shells. We were prepared, and had one alarm, which after a period of suspense turned out to be caused by some one stumbling against the gas gong. During this period only four or five shells fell on the line, and it was a very peaceful and comparatively pleasant time. Relieved on the 25th May by the Sussex and Queens, we moved to comfortable rest wadis at the Wadi Reuben,

near Dorset House, where the Divisional General (General Hare) inspected the Battalion and expressed himself well satisfied with it. On the 6th of June we were delighted to move to the coast, for the weather was very hot, although generally tempered by a pleasant breeze. We had a good move. Six days were spent at Regent's Park, which did not attempt to rival its namesake, but was a pleasant enough place. There were trees, patches of grass, and above all—the sea, and a short freedom from all parades and work.

From here we moved on the 13th of June into Brigade reserve, about three-quarters of a mile behind the centre of the left, or sandhill, section of the Gaza line. The night before we took over the C.O. and Adjutant visited the bivouacs of the 4th Royal Scots Fusiliers, and found things were lively. It seemed likely to be an unpleasant spot, but, as happened frequently in our reliefs, we found that the liveliness died away.

The following night the relief took place without incident. For the next week the Battalion was occupied in working-parties on the front line and at Brigade Headquarters at Marine View. The average number of men required for fatigues in the morning was 150, and at night 350. Every one was pressed into service and special-duty men worked long hours building up the front line and erecting dug-outs. The very fine sand made a great deal of extra work, for all sandbags had to be doubled to prevent the sand running out. It is recorded that it took 2,000 sandbags to build up both sides of a communication trench 100 yards long.

Nearly every night working-parties continued to improve the defences which, though far from perfect, were quite good.

An Intelligence Officer at an early date had taken the C.O. and Adjutant up the front line and pointed out some wire about 600 yards ahead as being our front line. An

examination through glasses made it appear rather an unusual type, and the Intelligence Officer admitted that it might be—yes, it was!—the Turkish wire. Fortunately the look-out was not particularly awake, so without interruption or undue haste they got down into a communication trench near by, that had previously appeared somewhat superfluous.

On the 14th June an artillery bombardment of Umbrella Hill gave us a great sight. The 8-inch shells falling on the Turkish parapet sent the many-coloured sandbags high in the air on a column of white sand, and the air soon became white with dust. The whole hill seemed to be shaken, but when the bombardment ceased there it remained very much the same.

On the 26th of June the Battalion relieved the 4th Norfolks on Samson's Ridge—the most prominent feature on this sector, which gave an extensive view of the country behind Gaza. Every afternoon the white houses of Gaza caught the sun, and looked like a fairy town to our sand-weary eyes. The ridge naturally came in for a commensurate amount of attention from the Turkish artillery. It particularly concentrated on the reverse slope immediately below the crest-line, apparently convinced that some one *must* be there. Fortunately there were no bivouacs, stores, or men there, and the chief result of this firing was an interesting collection of shrapnel shell-cases and splinters of shells littering the sand, and giving it the name, Samson's Necklace.

An interesting feature on our arrival was a kind of decoy trench, beautifully built, which led to the point where there were more curios in the sand, and then quite decisively and abruptly ceased, leaving the perspiring wanderer—it was quite hot in these trenches in July—the choice of retracing his footsteps or crossing the open in full view.

Working-parties at this time provided some food for thought. Unsatisfactory they generally were, but here for the time they seemed quite hopeless. Parties arrived at all sorts of unexpected hours. Usually their instructions were unintelligible, except to those who issued them, or, if intelligible, were incapable of execution owing to the lack of suitable material. Fortunately we arranged our own working-parties in the front line. But the communication trenches, particularly the long one known as the K.I, and leading from Battalion Headquarters to Samson's Ridge, made very slow progress.

Our casualties in this sector were 2 other ranks killed and 4 wounded.

On the 28th of June General Allenby took over command of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

On the 8th July the right portion of the sector was taken over by the 2/5th Hants, and we took over Fusilier Ridge on the left, our right resting on Samson's Ridge, our left on the Apex, near the sea.

On the 14th July the Turkish line was heavily shelled, bringing very little reply. A company of the 1/8th Hampshire Regiment and 2/5th Hampshire Regiment raided Beach Post at midnight, after half an hour's intense artillery bombardment. Most of this passed directly over Battalion Headquarters and the left of our sector, and provided a very fine and impressive display. The continuity and variety in sound, and the lack of any reply from the Turk, seemed symbolic of power and resolution as opposed to surprise and indecision. The only activity the Turk showed was in putting up Véry lights of all colours. At 3 a.m. the pre-arranged Véry light signal showed that the raiding-party was safely back. It had, with only two casualties, captured or killed the 95 Turks in the post.

During this time the Turks, probably a fresh division, had become very quiet and refused to fire a shot except

under the greatest provocation. The lines, averaging 700 yards apart, did little sniping, and patrols of any size to the enemy trenches were not considered desirable. We confined ourselves to patrolling the greater part of "No Man's Land," where we seldom found any Turks.

On the night of the 19th July the 1/5th Bedfords carried out a raid on Umbrella Hill and inflicted heavy casualties on the garrison. Few casualties were suffered during the raid.

On the night of the 27th a second raid on Umbrella Hill was carried out by the Bedfords. It was successful, but not so completely as the first, for there was more opposition and the time allowed for clearing the trenches was insufficient. Again few casualties were suffered; but the Turk opened a heavy bombardment afterwards that was concentrated on the Bedford's Battalion Headquarters, the reassembly point, and the advanced dressing station, and caused many casualties. The selection of this spot seems to have been quite an accident, an unfortunate one for us, as it happened. Lieut. Kell, who was acting as Brigade Bombing Officer, was killed.

It was about this time that Divisional signs were instituted, as distinguishing marks for vehicles and other movable property. The suggestion of a March hare for the 54th Division was turned down as "gross insubordination," and an umbrella blown inside out was eventually selected; a delicate compliment to the Battalion that had so thoroughly "put the wind up Umbrella Hill." Another ingenious device was the broken spur chosen by the dismounted Yeomanry Division. Shoulder-patches were also issued to all ranks; those of the 163rd Brigade were red and yellow, which are the colours of the Suffolk Regiment. Both the Divisional and Regimental signs are represented on the covers of this book.

Brig.-Gen. T. Ward went to England on leave on the 27th, Lieut.-Col. Wollaston assuming command of the Brigade, and Major H. T. Copinger Hill of the Battalion.

On the 2nd August, on relief by the Sussex, the Battalion moved to North Belah by the sea. Here we spent a very pleasant five days. An unbroken night's sleep, no stand-to, and unlimited bathing, made the break a thoroughly enjoyable one. We had been over five weeks continuously in the trenches, and this meant sleeping in boots and clothing, and daily work in improving the trenches.

The change in the country was remarkable. It was almost impossible to realize that it was the same which we had crossed at the end of March. The many-coloured flowers, the knee-high grass and barley, the waters of the lake, had all vanished, and in their place, inches deep, was grey dust, looking like a dingy reproduction of the desert that we imagined we had left behind us for good. When any traffic was on the move, and this was every day and all day, there was a continuous cloud of dust and not a blade of grass or a sign of any crop anywhere. The date palms, veiled in grey, lifted their heads on high, sadly surveying the scene.

On the 7th August we moved to Apsley House where we were part of the Division in reserve, and settled down to numerous courses and strenuous training. The bivouac area, all dug-outs, was very dusty, but not nearly so uncomfortable as it looked. The training ground just over the crest was perfect, and there we practised open-order drill and open warfare with a zest that could only be imparted by so long a confinement. A rifle-range at Tel-el-Jemmi allowed us to test our new short rifles and improve our musketry.

About this time an observation balloon appeared near Um Jerrar, about a mile in rear, and when the Turk

produced a long-range gun to shell it and a Hun plane attacked it with tracer bullets, it gave a very sporting display from the spectator's point of view. What the balloonist thought of it as the shells burst round him or the plane darted about his unwieldy charge as it slowly descended has never been recorded.

We did not appear to have the mastery of the air at this time; although from later events it would seem that we were equal, if not superior, to the Turk both in numbers and efficiency. But we had frequent observation planes up, cruising very slowly and occasionally doing reconnaissance work. They were frequently engaged by swift-darting Turk, or rather Austrian, planes, but continued their observation and reconnaissance quite imperturbably, and very often held the enemy till our fighting planes arrived.

On the 26th August we relieved the Royal Welsh Fusiliers at Carnarvon Redoubt, which covered the main Cairo-Gaza Road, and had the only gap in the line to Sheikh Abbas on its right. It marked the division between the "desert and the sown," half the frontage being in sand and half in good standing clay. A Company held the Golden Stairs. Heart Hill, a slight knoll on the right of our post, was occupied nightly by two platoons.

On the 8th September Lieut.-Col. Wollaston returned to the Battalion.

About the 24th the bivouac area of the reserve Company (C Company) was heavily and accurately shelled, but, fortunately, without casualties, except to the sergeants' mess fittings.

On September 29th the 10th Londons relieved the Battalion which, a day or two before, had received warning of the impending operations. The Battalion then moved to its previous camp by the sea at North Belah, and commenced collecting the equipment and doing the training for the assault. A model of our objective—El

Arish Redoubt—copied from the very excellent aeroplane photographs, was made exactly to scale, and every man to take part in the assault was given his place, his equipment, and practised his job. Officers made frequent visits to Samson's Ridge for reconnaissance, and that spot, already highly unpopular with its garrison, became even more so as the Turk increased his fire on it. There was a continuous procession, and traffic had to be regulated into "up" and "down" trenches. Fortunately the Turk did not see very much—apparently just enough to make him believe that a relief was pending—so in compliment to his observers he increased his fire slightly, but not seriously.

While at this camp the Battalion had an opportunity of seeing "The Rose of Gaza" by the Divisional Concert Party at Sheikh Shabasi, and every one enjoyed it immensely. The Battalion marched to the performance, arrived early, and secured front seats.

An epidemic of sand-fly fever made inroads in our ranks, and in one week 83 men were sent away with this annoying trouble. It was not dangerous if treated properly, but it could not be ignored.

Submarines were reported off the coast at this time, and our Brigade Headquarters switched an 18-pounder on to a periscope seen about a mile out. An excellent "bracket" was achieved, and at the third round the periscope got up and flew away! It was a sea-gull!

A very successful concert was held while here, when the C.O. told us the above tale, and the various turns were given a hearty reception.

On October 13th we went into the trenches at Fusilier Ridge, relieving the 7th Royal Scots and the 8th Scottish Rifles. On the 22nd we were relieved by the 4th and 5th K.O.S.B.'s and moved to Marine View near Brigade Headquarters. On the 25th steel helmets were issued to all ranks.

From the 22nd till the end of the month we were busy rehearsing the attack, preparing cover at the jumping-off point, and improving communications. Frequent reconnoitring parties went out, and one ran into a large enemy patrol which was lying in wait in a widely extended crescent formation. Our party got within the semicircle before the patrol was discovered, and came under fire from three sides. They were obliged to withdraw with a loss of two killed and one wounded.

The number of instructions and signals all ranks had to assimilate with regard to artillery, machine-gun fire, tanks, aeroplanes, neighbouring and supporting units, and occupation of enemy positions, seemed to be reaching alarming proportions. But by the time fixed for the attack most of them had been learned, and we felt confident of keeping touch and communication.

On the night of the 27th there was a strong wind followed by heavy rain and a thunderstorm; nearly all the bivouacs were blown down, and every one was drenched. A sunny day, however, quickly righted that. The artillery preparation (previously explained by Lieut.-Col. Dunbar) began, and a heavy and constant fire was kept up for six days and six nights. The Turk did not reply effectively, and many were the theories as to the reason. "He had little ammunition and was saving it." "He wished to conceal the position of his guns." "He had very few guns, and they were being knocked out." "He was waiting for our fire to slacken before he commenced a heavy bombardment." The fact remained that he very seldom swept an area by fire or fired many shells. Only on one occasion, the second Umbrella Hill raid, did he inflict a serious number of casualties.

On October 31st Beersheba was captured with 1,000 prisoners.

On the evening of November 1st, just at dusk, the Brigade moved forward to the jumping-off point on the trenches at Fusilier Ridge. The Turk before sunset had fired shrapnel traversing all along the front line, but bursting, as usual, some two or three hundred feet up. What he hoped to effect by this is hard to say. It did practically no harm. We watched the display with some interest, wondering if he knew it was the eve of the attack, and would search the line, and the wire roads leading to it. But at dusk his fire ceased, as ours had done a good deal earlier in the day, and we moved up into our jumping-off points in the front- and second-line trenches, reaching the allotted positions without incident about 7.15 p.m. Every one then had a short sleep. Between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. our trenches were subjected to a heavy bombardment following the capture of Umbrella Hill, but, fortunately, it ceased before we were due to move forward. At 1 a.m., after a mug of tea from a thermos dixie, we went over the top, across the bridges, through eight gaps in the wire, and followed the lines of pegs previously set out. We then deployed in eight lines, the front one 300 yards from our own wire, and about 700 from the Turkish front line. D and B Companies under Captains H. C. Wolton and J. R. Rowley were the assaulting companies, C and A Companies under Capts. G. Kilner, M.C., and T. J. Catchpole were in support.

The deployment was completed by 2 a.m., and the C.O. went along the line, which burrowed in the sand—waiting the arrival of zero hour, 3 a.m. A rum ration was issued by each section leader at 2.15 a.m., and at 2.30 a.m. the Battalion moved forward to Halfway House—500 yards from our line.

During this time the 156th Brigade, which had decided to move to the jumping-off point just before zero, and not to spend the night there as we had, was moving up into

position. Tanks were also advancing. These had silencers and moved very quietly over the sand. But either the tanks or the troops had been seen on the skyline at Samson's Ridge, and a heavy shrapnel fire was opened on them causing many casualties.

Our sector of deployment was searched by heavy but inaccurate machine-gun and rifle fire—mostly overhead. Private Harrison was killed, and three men were wounded. At 3 a.m., preceded by a tank, and with a standing barrage on the first line of trenches, the Battalion moved steadily forward, reaching the enemy wire, which was totally destroyed one minute before the barrage lifted. This continued on the trenches twenty yards behind the wire, and so steady and accurate was it that several sections pushed on right up to the wire.

The barrage lifted and the line dashed forward, meeting with little resistance. Small bodies held out, and one of these shot Capt. J. R. Rowley—the most popular officer in the Battalion—who was the first in the trench. He was mortally wounded, and died the same evening. Capt. T. J. Catchpole, at the head of his Company, rushed a party of Turks and was seriously wounded—dying the next day. Lieut. T. O. Taylor was also wounded in D Company's front line, and died the following day.

The second line was captured and likewise the third, but having no support on the flanks the troops were withdrawn to the second line and proceeded to consolidate it.

The Turk seemed thoroughly surprised, and during the morning opened very little fire on the trenches or "No Man's Land."

In the meantime the troops on our left had met with serious opposition. The Battalions in support of us who were to push on through the Turkish third line and forward, had a difficult change of front to make. They had lost direction, and were in El Arish Redoubt together with

a company of the battalion on our left. These events did not materially affect our position as long as the 156th Brigade made good on our right, for the original line could guard our left. (See map.)

Accurate reports of the progress made were brought by the runners from all Companies with great promptness, under heavy fire, and Battalion Headquarters moved to the Redoubt about 6 a.m. The Commanding Officer going the round of all the trenches, reorganized the different sectors and fragments of Battalions, and reported the situation in the sector as very good.

During the whole of this time the enemy artillery had not been very active, and only a moderate amount of machine-gun and rifle fire had been kept up. An aeroplane had come over our front line and, keeping very low, had escaped without damage and with full knowledge of our strength and dispositions. Two tanks had come to grief in our area—one in the front line and one just in advance of it. "Pincher" carried a load of wire which proved very useful and saved much carrying. Consolidation, mostly by sandbagging, proceeded very rapidly, and fair cover was soon available for every one.

The signal service and runners, whose work had been beyond praise, were well settled in a long trench with overhead cover from shrapnel fire, and Battalion Headquarters had found a crazy dug-out obligingly built so as to be immune from Turkish fire. It shook a good deal, and threatened to come down, but never actually did so, although it seemed a popular target with the Turkish artillery, and its construction was more like a Heath Robinson building than any known style of architecture. All the trenches had been improved and deepened.

Towards evening the Turk, who had apparently decided not to continue the withdrawal of his guns, opened fire again, but very considerably stopped at dusk.

A convoy of camels with rations, water, and R.E. material arrived and was unloaded, the canvas water-tank erected and the material stacked practically in the trenches. Lieuts. Alston and Double, and C.-Q.-M.-S. Moody and Sergt. Freeman beamed as the unloading proceeded without interruption, and eventually the 56 camels got clear away without casualty to man or beast. Fifteen minutes later the Turk swept "No Man's Land" with shrapnel, a little late, as always.

Consolidation went on apace. There was plenty of material—sandbags and planks, barbed wire and stakes—and the only handicap was the necessity for not overdoing it.

This night the Turk, anticipating a further push, opened intense rifle and machine-gun fire, followed by a heavy artillery bombardment. Our artillery replied, and there was a lively duel for a couple of hours. A gas alarm was given, and all wore gas helmets in the alert position, but it turned out to be a whiff of our own tear gas. From the 3rd to the 6th the Turk paid us attention with intense artillery fire, enfilading B and C Companies' trenches, and in several cases penetrating traverses. Our guns gave a swift reply, but did not at any time this week sensibly diminish the Turkish fire.

On the night of the 4th the line was reorganized, and the Battalion took over the whole of the redoubt. On the 6th the enemy worked up to drum-fire and gave us the heaviest and most concentrated bombardment we had received. It was quite impossible to move about the trenches during the afternoon at all. But by this time owing to the hard work put in by the Battalion we had good cover, and there was not a single casualty as the result of the firing. A further push was prepared for the following morning, but the night was quiet, enemy Véry lights seemed more distant, and at

daybreak patrols reported that the Turk had gone. At last the Turk had been decisively and effectively defeated.

Presently troops were seen climbing the slopes of Ali Muntar. Under cover of patrols all ranks then devoted themselves to inspecting the enemy trenches and dug-outs opposite us and burying the dead.

The trenches we had been occupying were good and rather unique, being constructed from the timber of the houses of Gaza. Most of the wooden revetment consisted of doors of all designs and woods, and the sand-bags were made of gay-coloured cloths of all kinds, having been sewn, according to rumour, by fair hands in the harems of Stamboul. The trenches opposite proved to be of most excellent design and workmanship, deep, well-built, and protected by wire and cactus hedges. An order of General Kress von Kressenstein's found in El Arish Redoubt was fully justified: "I have inspected your trenches and am well satisfied with them. They are excellent, and if these cannot be held then it is no use digging any trenches."

Probably the amount of work done, with trench duties, had so wearied the Turkish soldier that he had excellent trenches but no morale. We, on the other hand, had trenches which, effective and sufficient as they were, looked neglected and slipshod compared with those of the enemy. But the morale of the Battalion could not have been higher.

In an order issued on the 10th of November Colonel Wollaston said:—

"The Commanding Officer wishes to express his keen appreciation of the excellent conduct of all ranks during the recent operations. Their complete success was entirely due to the wholehearted energy with which all ranks, not only did their own work, but helped whenever and wherever they could. He could not wish for a better display of steadiness, cheerfulness, and courage."

Colonel Wollaston, after the capture of El Arish Redoubt, seemed a convert to the system of giving each man as much freedom as was consistent with the maintenance of discipline. This, while not as efficient as sealed pattern discipline would have been on young troops with years of steady training, was perhaps the very best method with Territorials. A great number of these were men near thirty, with settled habits and a limited amount of training, and their Officers, like those of the New Army, were in a similar position, but all were endued with a high morale and a keen desire to do their utmost.

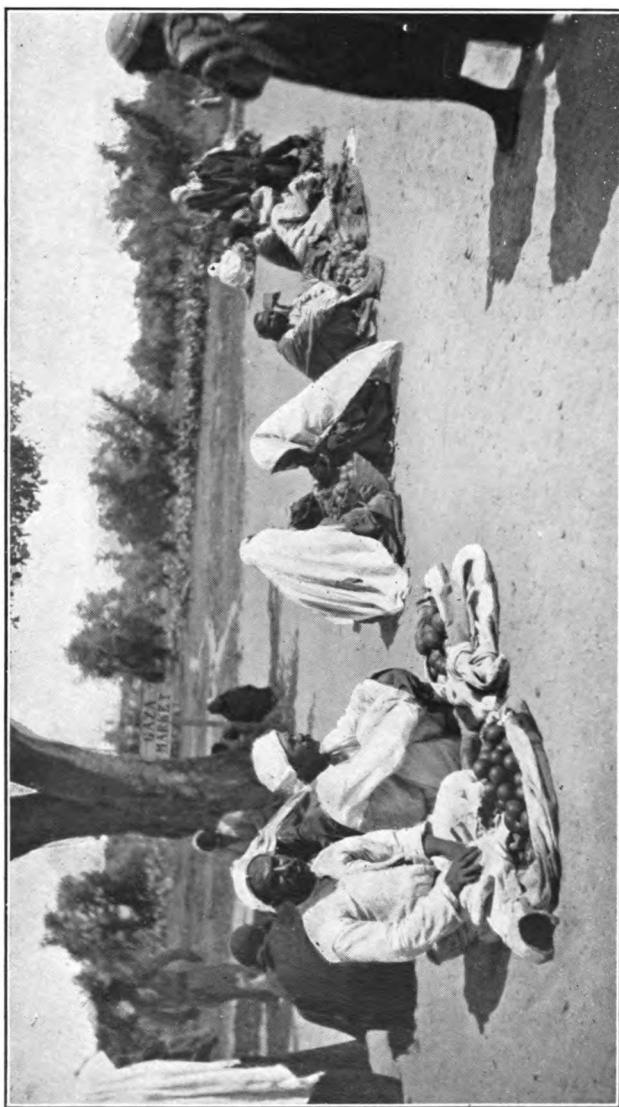
On the 7th November, having collected a certain amount of salvage, the Battalion marched to Marine View, covering their helmets with the many-coloured sandbags from the Turkish trenches.

The casualties, for the nature and results of the operation and the five days' bombardment, were not heavy. Capt. J. R. Rowley, Capt. T. J. Catchpole, and Lieut. T. E. Taylor were wounded in the attack and died of wounds. Lieuts. H. C. Goldsmith, C. M. Fyson, and S. A. Baylis were wounded, none seriously. Other ranks: killed, 41; wounded, 91; missing, 7. Casualties of Division, 1,600. Captures were as follows: 66 prisoners, 2 minenwerfers, 2 automatic rifles, 2 machine-guns, 120 rifles, hundreds of bombs, and thousands of cartridges and shells. Enemy dead were estimated at 80.

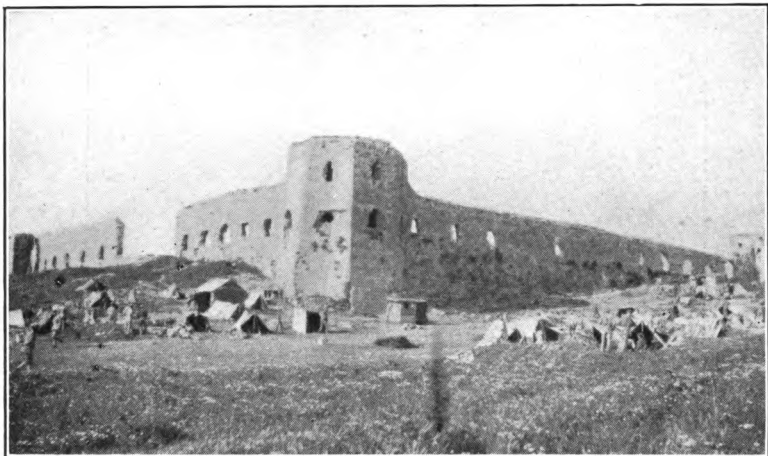
The following order was issued by the G.O.C. Division on the 11th November :—

ORDER OF THE DAY.

“Now that the third battle of Gaza has been fought and won, I wish to congratulate the Division on the part that they have played in it.



GAZA MARKET.



RAS-EL-AIN.



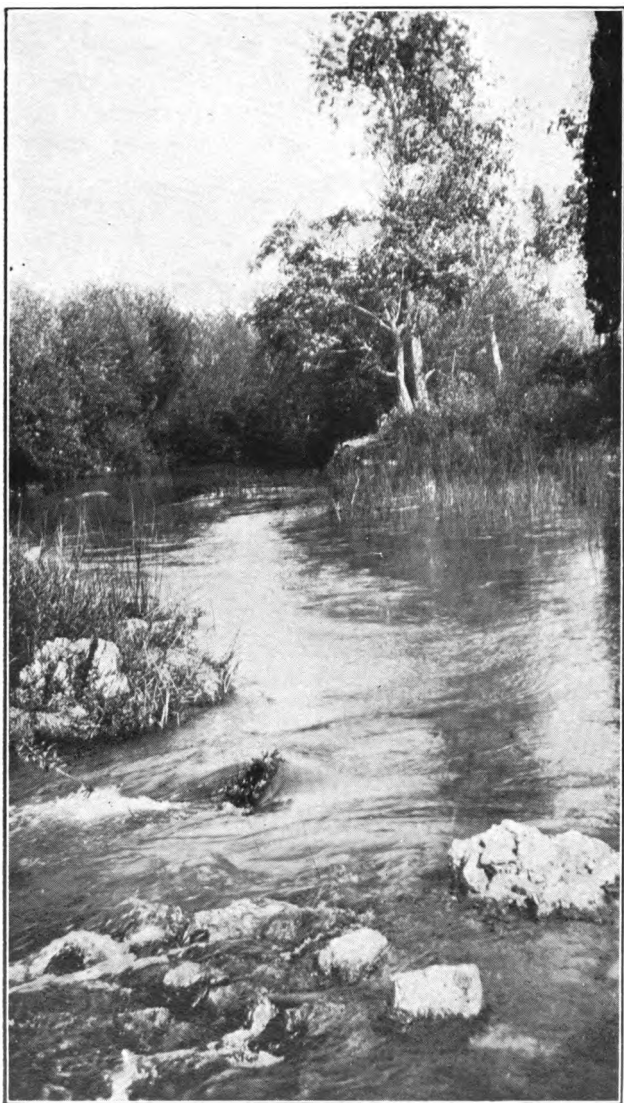
GROUP OF OFFICERS, DIKERIN.

*Back Row (left to right).—*Lieut. A. Green, Lieut. D. C. W. Smith, 2nd Lieut. Cottam, The Rev. E. D. Renison, Lieut. C. M. Fyson, Capt. B. W. Cockell, Capt. A. Maris, 2nd Lieut. Baylis, Capt. and Adjutant A. Fair.

*Middle Row.—*Lieut. R. F. Stewart, Lieut. Mackinnon, Capt. E. D. Wolton, Capt. L. B. Fox, Capt. H. C. Wolton, Lieut.-Col. W. M. Campbell, D.S.O.



LIEUT.-COL. WOLLASTON, D.S.O.



THE RIVER AUJA.

"The gateway between Egypt and the Holy Land is one of the historic battle-grounds of the world, and the 54th Division has shown fighting qualities worthy of this scene of countless battles between Assyrians and Egyptians, Israelites and Philistines, Saracens and Crusaders.

"The infantry carried out the attack with a dash and gallantry which was equalled by the resolution with which they stood the heavy shelling they sustained for five days in the captured work, and the energy and skill with which they consolidated their positions. The latter was well shown by the steadily decreasing casualty lists from day to day, in spite of the undiminished shelling by the Turkish artillery.

"The artillery support was all that any infantry could wish for. The bombardment was most effective, the barrage was accurate, and the protective barrages promptly brought down when called for, stopped all counter-attacks before they could get near our lines.

"The thanks of the whole Division are due to the R.E. for their work before and during the battle, whether in the front line assisting the consolidation, or in the numerous and important tasks behind the line. With the R.E. is included the Signal Service, whose arrangements went without a hitch throughout.

"The Medical and Administrative Services did their share in a way that showed good organization, good previous training, and unbounded energy and devotion to duty.

"My thanks are especially due to the Staff, both General and Administrative, whose work throughout the operations has been of the highest order.

"One word of warning. Though we have done well, we must not think that we are perfect and have nothing more to learn. No doubt every Officer and man feels that he knows more about soldiering than he did ten days ago.

F

But we must not relax our efforts at self-improvement by training. We must think over all the different events of the battle, and find out in what ways we could have done better. We must go on improving till we have driven the Turk out of the Holy Land.

“S. W. HARE, Major-General,
“Commanding 54th Division.”

11/11/1917.

The following is a list of the honours awarded in connection with the assault :—

MILITARY CROSS.—Capt. H. C. Wolton; Capt. L. B. Fox; Lieut. H. C. Goldsmith.

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.—240172 Pte. Allum; 241293 Lce.-Corp. Rosling; 240580 Sergt. J. Pearson.

MILITARY MEDALS.—240531 A/Sergt. S. Bowman; 240197 Pte. S. Wells; 240919 Pte. J. Palfrey; 241337 Pte. J. Farrow; 240083 Sergt. R. B. Wagge; 240583 A/Sergt. A. W. Freeman; 24041 A/F/Sergt. F. H. Goreham; 241044 Pte. B. Murrell; 240369 Pte. F. Hayward; 240924 Corp. W. Hickford; 240175 Pte. H. C. Mingay.

On the 8th we moved by night to Sheikh Hassan and were joined by Capt. Althaus, Lieut. Ryley, and 40 men. The following days were spent in salvaging. Every one then had a chance to examine the Turkish trenches, get some souvenirs, and visit Gaza. The town, which looked so beautiful from a distance, was composed simply of skeletons of houses, and every few feet were shell holes. The Grand Mosque had been battered by our artillery, and the S.A.A. dump, which we knew to be there, had blown up. Enemy gun positions were well concealed—always in deep pits, and sometimes behind cactus hedges nearly twenty yards thick.

Ali El Muntar, the highest point around Gaza, which dominated the landscape, was a mass of shell-holes, and

apparently there was not even an observation post there. The shelling must have prevented nearly all direct observation of our movements. The next crest was, however, a strong point, and well fortified and wired in.

Tank Redoubt, opposite Sheikh Abbas, was an exceptionally strong place, with well-designed trenches, deep dug-outs, and three rows of barbed wire, but apparently it was flooded out during October rains. It must have been very uncomfortable then, as there appeared to be no drainage system out of the redoubt, although there was a good slope into it.

The remains of hundreds killed on the 19th April were lying round or in front of it. The Turks had made no attempt to bury them. Most of them lay in long lines where the cross fire had mown them down, but some had reached the wire, and a few were near the parapet.

A burial party was busy in this area for some time after, and many officers from the Brigade spent the next few days helping to identify in any way possible those friends and comrades who had made the supreme sacrifice on 19th April. Identity discs in many cases were gone, but articles of clothing and oddments in pockets helped in many a case to establish identification. All were laid to rest in a common grave after an impressive service. We felt then that their lives had been sacrificed in a gallant attempt to capture a position that was impregnable by day. Truly it was said: "The best of our grand old Territorial Brigade lie here."

CHAPTER VI.

THE ADVANCE FROM GAZA.

ON November the 14th the Brigade left Sheikh Hassan for an eleven-mile march to Herbieh, en route for Jaffa, passing Beit Hanun, the Turkish rail-head, and seeing thousands of shells abandoned there. The little railway station had been burned and some of the bridges destroyed. The large stone bridge over the Wadi Hesi, five miles from the sea, had been punctured by one of our naval shells, but was still quite sound and useful.

Turkish bridges deserve a paragraph to themselves. When they did exist they were always of fine solid construction, but they were either exceptionally high, wide, or long. This one, which before the war could have had very little traffic indeed, was about 40 feet wide. The one near Mejdal, which must have had still less traffic, was nearly 60 feet wide and had four raised footpaths, while that south of Kubeibe was 50 feet high, and stood about 20 feet above the surrounding country. They all looked very handsome, but quite misplaced.

On the 16th we left Herbieh and marched six miles along a good hard road to Mejdal. This was our first day's march on a road, and we passed the ancient Philistine town of Askalon on the way. The country was pleasantly varied, and Mejdal a very cheerful place surrounded by orchards. On the following day we did a further eight miles to a pleasant camping ground at Esdud (the ancient Ashdod), but a long and unnecessary detour round the town rather spoiled the end of the march. On the 18th we camped at Kubeibe, twelve miles on, passing the place where the Berks and Dorset Yeomanry charged and cap-

tured 750 Turks. Traces of the fight were still visible. The day was hot, and water not available on our arrival.

On the 19th the Battalion was to have gone to Ramleh, but owing to the Turks hesitating at Latron we went to Abu Shushe, twelve miles, and bivouacked on stony ground north of the Jaffa railway, and south of the road.

The country had been like the Land of Promise all the way up, but this day we passed through a Jewish settlement, that, with its red-tiled houses, green hedges, white-washed walls, orange groves and general air of cleanliness, civilization and prosperity, looked like an English village. The maidens kept out of sight, and the old men we saw were obviously not English, and amused the troops very much. Here, too, the troops received gifts of bread and biscuit, a pleasant change of diet after some days of Army biscuit and bully.

On the night of the 20th a heavy rainstorm found out the weak places in our low-lying and shaky bivouacs, making every one very uncomfortable. At midnight orders arrived to dispatch a Guard of Honour to take part in the entry of the Commander-in-Chief into Jerusalem. They were to march half-way there by noon on the following day. Hastily collected they were inspected at daybreak and set off on their journey under Capt. E. D. Wolton. On approaching Halfway House they found themselves in the middle of a very brisk engagement, with shells bursting all round them. Water and rations were difficult to get, but they camped where they were and joined in building a road to the flank. On December 2nd they returned. The Turk had decided to put up a fight for Jerusalem, and British troops did not enter until the 9th of December.

On November the 24th the Battalion marched to Ramleh, where it came into Divisional Reserve. The town looked well from a distance; it had a Crusader's Tower with crypts, and a modern church, with a

monastery in which Napoleon slept. Some welcome supplies, chickens, eggs, etc., could be got here, and the wine of the country was delicious. But the most novel thing was the Church Tower with its clock and bell. We had almost forgotten that such things existed.

On the 26th four Turkish aeroplanes spotted our camp and bombed it, killing 7 men and wounding 7. The transport suffered particularly heavily. The planes kept very high, and no anti-aircraft guns were available. The following day the Battalion was attached to the 162nd Brigade and ordered to reinforce the Northants at Wilhelma, where they had been attacked by a strong body of Turks. Fortunately, these were badly led, and being spotted at daylight were given a hot reception by the artillery. Pressing on, however, they came under Lewis-gun fire from the flanks and melted away; the attack being easily repulsed, although no trenches had been dug.

We marched eight miles along a good road when rifle and machine-gun fire passing overhead decided us to reconnoitre. A and C Companies reinforced the Northants in the village itself, and Headquarters, B and D Companies camped in cramped quarters in a narrow wadi, a couple of miles farther back. Two days later the Battalion, less A and C Companies, relieved a company of the Northants holding a detached post at Yehudiyeh. No sign of the enemy was seen to the front.

On December the 1st the 1/5th Bedfords relieved the Battalion, which returned to the 163rd Brigade and moved to a camp near the oil refinery and Jewish Farm Colony at Ludd. Four bullocks killed by Turkish shell-fire provided the first issue of fresh meat since Gaza.

Turkish night-flying planes were now active, and no lights were allowed.

On the 4th C and D Companies, under Major Hill, moved to the bed of a wadi in rear of Beit Nabala, near a

post Zeififiyeh—which had been captured by the Turk, and recaptured five minutes later by a prompt counter-attack. A day later heavy rain turned the whole countryside to sticky mud.

On the 11th we moved to Beit Nabala, and our bivouac area near the front of the wood was treated to six vicious little mountain shells, which landed right in the centre, but inflicted only one slight casualty.

On December the 15th the whole line to the sea, pivoting on Nabala, was advanced, the Battalion taking Bornat Hill, the highest point in the neighbourhood, and about 3,000 yards distant. The Turk was again surprised, for the attack took place at 8 a.m., over the ridges, not up the valleys. On this occasion A and C Companies, under Capts. G. G. Warnes and A. A. Maris, were the assaulting companies, B Company (Capt. Althaus) in support, and D Company (Capt. H. C. Wolton) in reserve.

The Turk fired his machine-guns, causing about thirty casualties, until the assaulting Companies reached the dead ground at the foot of Bornat, and then fled; the only prisoner being found asleep in a cave. The assaulting companies climbed the steep ridges and slopes of Bornat like mountain goats, but the Turk was fleet of foot and stayed not on the order of his going. He managed to get all his machine-guns away, but left half a dozen sledge mounts, and all his spare parts, belt boxes, etc.

A heavy shell-fire was opened, particularly on A Company occupying the forward slope, and we suffered numerous casualties—1 Officer (Lieut. Ryley) and 13 other ranks killed, or died of wounds, and 3 Officers (Capts. Althaus, Maris, and Lieut. Reed) and 60 other ranks wounded. No counter-attack was attempted, but very heavy shelling continued all day to enfilade A Company's position.

Although many acts of bravery were performed no awards were given, owing to a technical error concerning

the date by which the recommendation had to be sent into Brigade Headquarters.

On the 16th we were relieved and moved to Stone Heaps Hill, which was heavily and consistently shelled, but gave good cover, and thence to Et Tireh. Here a patrol of D Company distinguished themselves by neatly snapping up a Turkish patrol consisting of one warrant officer and seven men.

On the 22nd the Turks, owing to an advance on the left, withdrew and our line was pushed forward about a mile over high and rocky hills. The winter rains began in earnest, and Christmas Day was ushered in by a steady drizzle. Many may regard this Christmas as the most miserable one in their lives. Rain had fallen the previous day, and during the early hours of the morning. The country was saturated, and it was quite impossible to move about much owing to the mud. The Companies were spread about widely on the stony hills east of Tireh village. Battalion Headquarters were in a filthy cave, which afforded some natural shelter overhead, but water poured in at the opening. Our food was just rations. There was no possibility of supplementing the Christmas fare, the only bright spot in it being the rum ration. At breakfast time the rain ceased, and an open-air Communion Service was held on a stony hill with a rock as an altar. Other services arranged with Companies to celebrate the day were cancelled as the rain persisted and fell steadily in torrents for the rest of the day. When not on duty surveying the front, we could only amuse ourselves by crouching beneath a bivouac sheet, beating in pegs between the stones, and calling to mind other Christmases spent under better circumstances by the warmth and brightness of the fireside at home.

The Battalion had marched 250 miles since leaving Moascar, had taken part in four engagements, and had gained high praise for its conduct on all occasions.

The following Officers were with the Battalion at the end of the year :—

HEADQUARTERS : Lieut.-Col. F. H. A. Wollaston, D.S.O. (Commanding); Major H. T. C. Hill, M.C. (Second in Command); Capt. A. Fair (Adjutant); Lieut. A. R. Godfrey (Intelligence Officer); Lieut. A. R. Alston (Transport Officer); Lieut. B. H. Double (Quartermaster); Capt. A. P. Phillips, R.A.M.C. (Medical Officer); The Rev. E. D. Rennison (Chaplain).

A COMPANY : Capt. G. G. Warnes; Lieut. D. Green.

B COMPANY : Capt. L. B. Fox, M.C.; Lieut. P. Bree.

C COMPANY : Capt. E. D. Wolton; Lieut. R. E. Steward.

D COMPANY : Capt. H. C. Wolton, M.C.

ABSENT ON COURSES : Capt. G. Kilner, M.C.; Lieuts. D. Smith and N. A. Mackinnon.

WOUNDED : Capts. Althaus and A. A. Maris; Lieuts. H. C. Goldsmith, C. M. Fyson, C. C. Reed, and S. A. Baylis.

SICK : Lieuts. G. G. Oliver, T. P. Rogers, and J. H. Gorsuch.

We looked longingly at the attractive village of Wilhelma, and welcomed the move to it on the 28th. This was a German colony founded by a religious sect, the Templars, and was a model settlement. The houses were bright, well furnished and airy, farms well stocked, and fire-wood plentiful. In fact it was quite like a corner of England. A farming company was at once formed that milked the cows and ran the dairy. Surplus stock was slaughtered, and altogether New Year's Day was a real holiday, with every one in comfortable billets and enjoying a good rest after the trying times on the foothills.

This was the first and last time since leaving England that the Battalion had occupied houses. Furniture, including a bed and a mattress, and protection against

the weather, were delightful novelties. As companies were detailed for outpost duty only once in four nights these blessings could be appreciated. The weather, which about New Year was very wet, increased our appreciation of our good luck. The pigs, fowls, and calves that the owners (who had been evacuated to Jaffa) were willing to sell, were quickly disposed of. Wheat was ground in hand mills, and home-made bread baked. With these luxuries we defied the weather and prayed for a long stay. Our genial Padre, who was capable of appreciating these good things, was sent to hospital at Jaffa by a hard-hearted M.O., where he found a diet of bully beef and biscuits a poor substitute.

The days were spent in digging trenches and drains, and making roads, and an embankment for a light railway. The roads were excellent in fine weather, but after rain they were turned into quagmires, and dry creek beds became raging torrents. We kept a four days' emergency supply of rations on hand in case the roads should be impassable. The transport, however, "delivered the goods" with unfailing regularity. A wonderful lot they were, with never a complaint or mishap, always cheery and always getting there. It was strange to see the sad-looking camels coming down the main street slowly and resignedly dragging their huge feet from the mud, into which they sank at every step, and which one felt sure they loathed with a deep and bitter hate.

On the 8th of January the Brig.-Gen. presented ribbons to those men who had been awarded decorations for gallantry in the third battle of Gaza.

On the 14th we took over Station Post and Rantieh from the 1/4th Norfolks. Fortunately the weather, which had been very bad—heavy rain falling continuously—improved, and there was little trouble about the relief.

On the 23rd January a patrol consisting of an Officer and eight men with a Lewis gun ran into an enemy patrol

of about 30. A brisk interchange of shots resulted in the Turk withdrawing without having caused us any damage. Lieut.-Col. Wollaston, D.S.O., Capt. H. C. Wolton, M.C., and Lieut. A. H. Godfrey left for England for six weeks' leave, and at the end of January Major Hill, M.C., assumed command. Capt. Goldsmith and Lieut. Fyson rejoined, and 2nd Lieuts. Wheatcroft and Grose joined. About this time short leave to Jerusalem started; about six men at a time being allowed to go.

On the 30th the Battalion moved to a very pleasant camp at One Tree Hill in an almond grove which, being on sandy soil, was tolerable even in wet weather.

Here the platoons went into hard training for the Divisional Competition. In the Battalion test No. 9 Platoon under 2nd Lieut. C. C. Reed was chosen as the best Officer's Platoon, and No. 13 Platoon, under Sergt. G. Youngs, as the best N.C.O.'s, and these were chosen to represent the Battalion. The Divisional Tournament was held at Sarona at the beginning of March, extending over five days, and No. 13 came out top in the Division and so secured the Cup. When it is remembered that the competitors were chosen from 192 platoons, and that the platoons were severely examined in all branches of training, from camel loading and wiring to Lewis gun and bombing work, it will be recognized that great credit is due to Sergt. Youngs and his men.

Divisional sports were also arranged, and a Divisional Race Meeting held. Altogether the wet season was welcomed as giving us a very pleasant relief from strenuous work and incessant duties. Transport teams moving over roads deep in mud, and the supercilious camel, painfully drawing his padded hoof from the bog, probably thought otherwise.

On February the 16th the Battalion moved to the River Auja relieving the Northants. The front was an ideal one. The swiftly flowing Auja springs in full

maturity from a small depression in the plain near Ras-el-Ain and runs between banks of waving green reeds, noble trees, and orange groves until it reaches the sea. One of our posts was a pumping station with wooden palisades and castellated roof, rejoicing in the name of "Northampton Castle." This gave a wonderful view for miles over the Plain of Sharon to the north, to the sandhills on the west, and to the Judean foothills on the east. The other post was at West Mirr, near the site of an old mill and bridge.

The names of the various camps and posts indicated their difference from the lines previously held by us. The Reserve Company and Headquarters occupied Langdon Wood and Warley Wood. The outpost line ran from Lemon Wood, through Long Wood and White Gates, to Northampton Castle. The fields were bright green, the orange groves studded with gold, and the Turk invisible. Every one rejoiced at these pleasant places and life went by like a song.

Corporal Ince of C Company effected a very smart capture here. He was in command of a sentry group of six men on the south bank of the river when he saw a large Turkish patrol in open formation approaching the north bank. Two of them seemed likely to arrive opposite his post. He, with two men, crossed the stream by a fallen tree, and waited just below the top of the north bank. When the Turks arrived at the top of the bank they were promptly secured before they could alarm their comrades, and so one Turkish patrol returned home less two of its number.

The village of East Mirr, about 200 yards in front of our post at West Mirr, with its miscellaneous inhabitants carrying on business as usual, was rather undesirable, so it was decided to clear it. This was done on the 16th February, when 343 men, women, and children, 300 cattle, 200 sheep, 5 horses, and numerous donkeys crossed

the Auja with the help of a rope. By the time the crossing was complete the Turk noticed some movement and sent over some shells which did no harm.

On the 22nd, without previous warning, 2nd Lieuts. H. B. Holgate, J. H. Rowlandson, S. G. Kemp, H. Ladell, P. T. Clarke, F. Bentley, F. A. Davis, A. Green, and G. E. Kemp arrived and were heartily welcomed. Wounds, sickness, extra-regimental duties, and courses had kept us short of Officers since May 1917, and this reinforcement was both welcome and necessary.

On March 8th our line was slightly advanced and Battalion Headquarters moved to Short Wood, ten minutes from the Auja, and in the outpost line. The whole battalion was in the thick of orange groves heavy with golden fruit, and Jaffa oranges will find eloquent advocates throughout the Battalion.

The enemy showed some slight activity in shelling about this time, but the net result of some 500 shells was one man slightly bruised.

March 12th saw the 162nd Brigade capture Mejdal Yaba. Viewed from Mirr it was a fine panorama. The artillery bombardment at 9 a.m. was very effective, and the smoke-shells made a novel and beautiful sight, bursting on the hill slopes beautifully white, and hanging in the calm, clear air like a curtain of cotton wool. Two companies of retreating Turks were promptly and accurately shelled, but keeping at good intervals suffered little. The village was taken without any casualties. Again the enemy showed a strange lack of energy. A brigade of artillery behind the transparent screen of Long Wood was accurately registered and ranged by them, but at once they ceased fire.

On March 13th A Company occupied the ancient Castle of Ras-el-Ain, taking over from the 4th Norfolks, and on the 16th the Battalion moved in Brigade reserve at Garnett's Wood.

On the 19th we heard the sad news of Col. Wollaston's death from shrapnel fired during an air-raid on London. He had commanded the Battalion since August 1916. While critical of its methods in some details, he always had a deep affection for it, and a high admiration for the spirit that animated it. Considerate, tactful, and a kind friend to all with whom he came in contact, he was regarded by the men he led as a comrade who had shared their disappointments and successes, and who, understanding their weaknesses and virtues, was deeply attached to them. A brilliant soldier and a gallant gentleman, the whole Battalion felt his loss keenly.

Battalion training was continued at Garnett's Wood, and record entries were received for sports. The mule-back wrestling and the blindfold donkey race were the most amusing and popular items. Later cross-country running became popular. During this month 2nd Lieuts. W. Emerson, R. F. Currington, A. Balfour, and F. J. Cottam joined the Battalion.

At the beginning of April we again moved into the front line among the orange groves, where we found the 1/8th Ghurka Rifles on our left.

On the 5th Major W. M. Campbell, of the Suffolk Regiment, who had recently commanded the 1/5th Norfolks, and been second in command of the 4th K.O.S.B., assumed command of the Battalion. He had been captured at Le Cateau during the retreat from Mons, and after being a prisoner in Germany for three years had effected a bold escape.

The quiet along the whole front continued. On April 10th on relief by the 2nd Loyal North Lancashires, we moved into reserve at Garnett's Wood, where we received warning orders for an advance up the Plain of Sharon. Details of this were worked out, but later the whole scheme was cancelled.

As a result of the situation in France, and the likelihood of an attack from the Turk, we devoted ourselves to organizing the defences of our front line. They had not been taken very seriously, and some of us, in our heart of hearts, had hoped for an opportunity for open warfare on the plain. With the possibility of German reinforcements reaching the Turk, and a probable reduction in our strength, defensive positions became a matter of common sense and urgency. So we dug and built for some weeks.

On April 24th Brigadier-General T. Ward, G.M.G., who had been with us since Gallipoli, relinquished his command, which was assumed by General A. McNeil, D.S.O.

Early in May we went to Dikérin, among the rocks of the foothills, to be attached to the 161st Brigade. Here B and C Companies provided working-parties by day and night, and specialized in the art of building stone sangars.

A Company acted as guard to the guns in the Wadi Ballut; and D Company to the guns at Mezeiréh. Near the latter was a charming little Roman temple.

During this time the enemy planes displayed a very marked objection to our observation balloons. Three of these came down in flames in the same number of days, but were promptly replaced.

On May 23rd we took over the right sector of the divisional front, relieving the 4th Essex Battalion. This front was quite a novelty to us, being a series of small posts, each holding a platoon, and composed of sangars. These were on the forward slope of rocky hills, with precipitous wadis running up towards them, and were under direct observation from enemy posts, consequently most of them were not held during the day. Castle Hill alone was garrisoned. Observation posts were established along the rest of the line. The sangars had made slow progress, but were reasonably good cover.

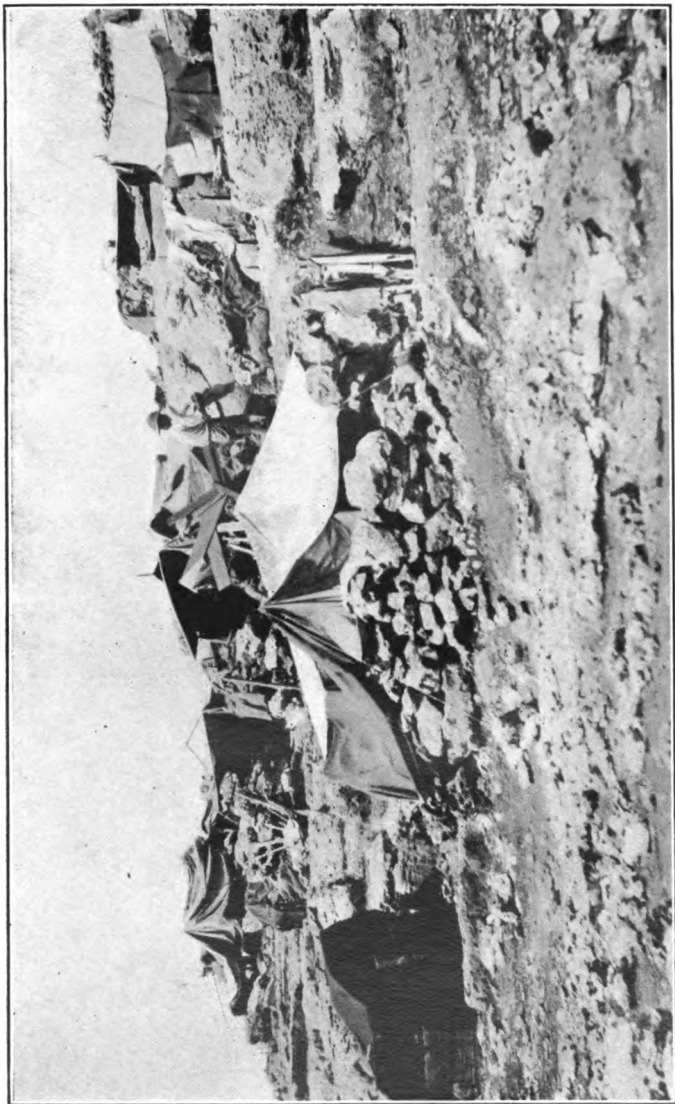
Green Hill, occupied by D Company, was well detached, and so exposed to enemy observation that the garrison could not move about even the reverse slope of the hills by day. They spent their days lying low, undisturbed by surprise visits from Headquarters, and unable to do any physical work. B Company were on Lone Hill; A Company on Castle Hill; and C Company behind Double Hill, near Ruin Hill. Headquarters were on the steep slopes of Boundary Wadi. The names fairly indicate the nature of the country. The versatile camel again aroused our respect by negotiating paths with rocky steps that were more suited to goats than to our lofty friends.

The canteen stores here were very good, and the C.O., transport and canteen Officers arranged for a supply of bottled beer twice a week.

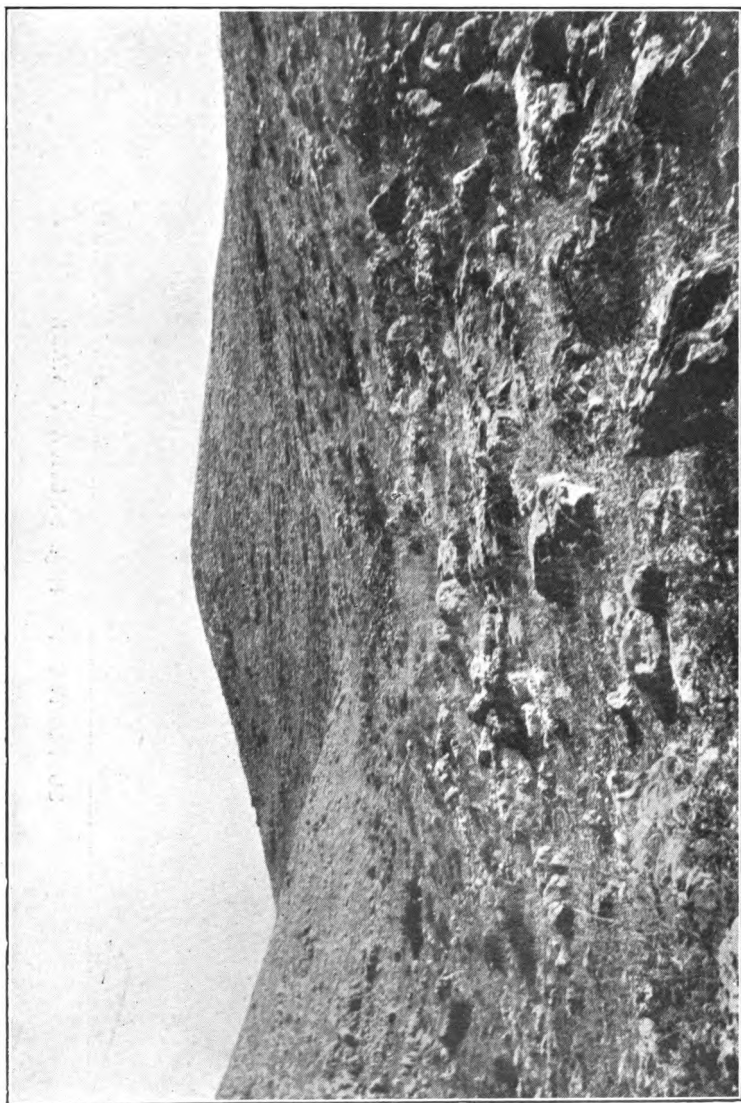
Here we spent a reasonably quiet three weeks, as the artillery bombardment was very perfunctory. An enterprising enemy scout caused some diversion by making his way into the unoccupied posts by day, taking some S.A.A. and cutting the telephone wires. He repeated the performance without being spotted, but on look-outs being left in the posts by day he was seen and fired at. He escaped and did not come again.

We moved back on the 20th June to near Rantieh, where we were to do Brigade training. We had a pleasant bivouac area, and a good training and sports ground, and all looked well.

But on the 25th we received orders that we were to follow the 53rd Division to France. Great was the rejoicing, and great the preparations. Off we went in light marching order to Surafend, and thence the following day to Ludd where, after handing in all our animals and special equipment, we loaded up the baggage, entrained with great glee at 7.30 a.m., and waited the first move to France and home.



SUPPORT COY'S H.Q., BOUNDARY WADI.



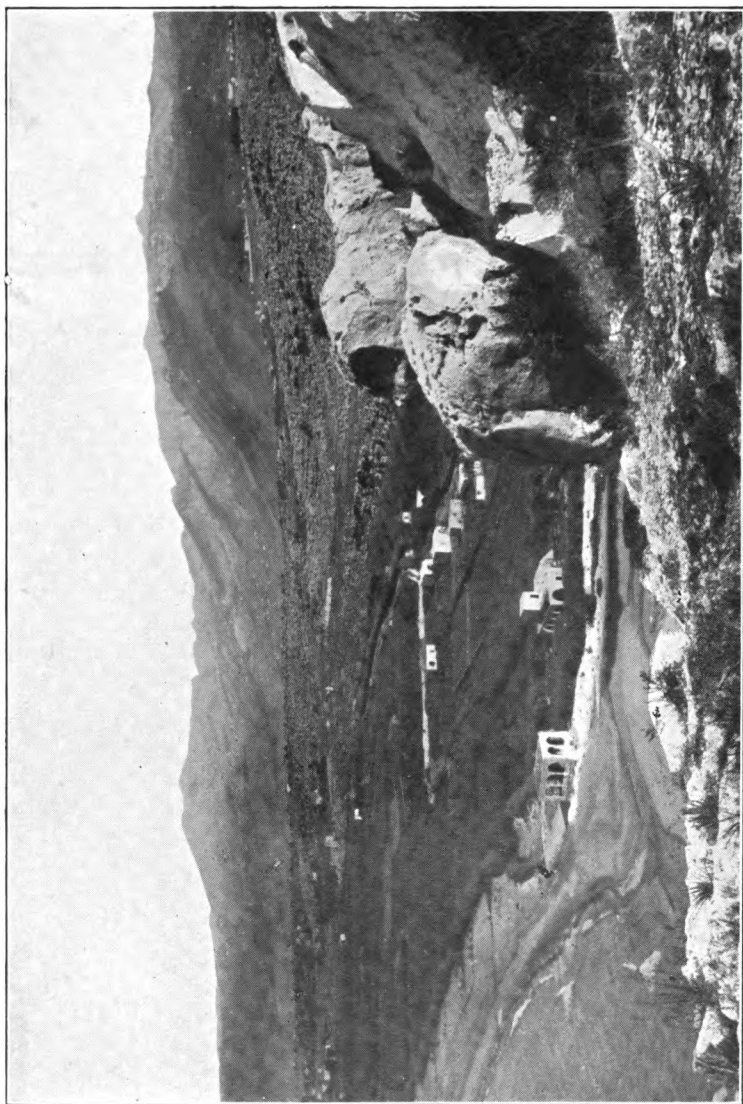
OBSERVATION HILL.



TURKISH PRISONERS LEAVING OBSERVATION HILL.



THE COMMON GRAVE, KESFA.



JUNIE BAY.

The train delayed—no one worried. Time went by—it was a common occurrence to be timed too early. Then Brigadier General McNeil came along: "The move may be cancelled." And cancelled it was at 11 a.m., and back we went to Surafend. The 162nd Brigade was recalled from Kantara, and the 5th Norfolks, who had moved off a few hours before us, from Gaza.

The strength of the Battalion was 31 Officers, 899 other ranks, as all men detached on duty had been recalled. It is interesting to note that in this week only two men reported sick. From now onwards the 54th Division was the only white Division left to the E.E.F.; all the other white Divisions had either gone to France, or had sent there most of their battalions, which had been replaced by Indian troops.

We spent some days at Surafend, moving camp twice to avoid dust and an epidemic in an adjoining camp. Leave to Jerusalem was re-opened, and large numbers were able to make this most interesting trip.

At the beginning of July the Battalion went off to Mezeireh, where it did three weeks' road-making. The road was to be 20 ft. wide, with low walls on either side, and the Suffolk-made part of it at least should withstand even the rigours of the Syrian climate for many years to come. It was constructed of five layers of stones varying in size from boulders at the bottom to small chips at the top, all well rammed down. As labour was plentiful, detours were unnecessary, valleys were filled in with boulders, and the gradient made suitable for military traffic. We were, however, glad that we could also rely on an iron road to supply our needs. Roman methods were very thorough, but we hoped to make our campaign rather shorter than the Roman wars in the same locality. During the month 2nd Lieuts. J. C. Walker, H. Griffiths, G. Hughes, D.C.M., and J. D. Chittleburg joined the Battalion.

At the end of July the Battalion moved to Rouge Farm (Red House Wood), near Yehudieh, where we had excellent training. The ground was perfect for manœuvre, the material unlimited, there were splendid rifle ranges, and very few routine duties. The bivouac area was among large olive trees, and supplies of fresh fruit and canteen stores were available. The Divisional and Brigade Concert Parties visited us, and this was really a model training period. Platoon, company battalion, and brigade training were carried out in turn. Major-Gen. S. W. Hare, C.B., G.O.C. Division, inspected the Battalion and expressed himself as very pleased with it. The best remembered training is probably the demonstration in night firing. With a supply of Vêry lights, artillery signal bombs, flares, grenades, and S.A.A. previously undreamt of, we did night firing under conditions resembling a fireworks display at the Crystal Palace; but, nevertheless, practical and effective.

Minden Day was celebrated by a shooting competition in the morning, and Battalion sports in the afternoon. At night the Divisional and Brigade concert parties combined to give us a splendid concert. On August 5th there was a Brigade Horse and Hound Show. The Battalion transport gained first prize in the Single Mule Competition, second in the Four Mule Team, and third in the Limber.

During this period we all passed through the gas chamber at Wilhelma, and tested our masks. The health of the Battalion was exceptionally good. The returns for the whole force were now made known in Divisional Orders, and showed that admissions to hospital during the last two months from the Battalion had been less than those from any other battalion in Palestine.

CHAPTER VII.

THE ADVANCE TO BEIRUT.

At the beginning of September the Battalion relieved the 6th Essex in the Boundary Wadi sector of the line, and had ample opportunity of becoming acquainted with the ground. The sangars had been greatly improved, and the line was a strong defensive position.

About September 10th we were withdrawn into Brigade reserve and prepared our equipment and did rehearsals and training for an attack. The usual busy time set in when everyone was studying the ground in front, testing his knowledge of the ground north of the enemy's lines and acquainting himself with every detail of the arrangements and his own particular duties. At such a time everyone had much to do, but the C.O. was untiring, appearing everywhere at all times, and keeping in touch with everything.

Finally, on September 18th, the full plan of the attack could be disclosed.

A general attack on the right of the Turkish lines from Three Bushes Hill to the coast—a frontage of about eighteen miles—was planned to take place at 4.30 a.m. on the 19th September, 1918. At that date and hour the moon would be about four days before full, and would set at 2.30 a.m. This gave us moonlight to move out by, but two hours' darkness immediately before the assault.

On the right of the attack on which the movement was to pivot was the 163rd Brigade with three Battalions of Algerians and Armenians (forming the *Détachement Français de Palestine et Syrie*), attached, on their right.

We were on the right of the Brigade attack, and our objective—Observation Hill—was intended to form a pivot for the whole movement eastward, which was to begin the same day. The Divisional Artillery was lent to the troops on our left, who were attacking across the undulating Plain of Sharon some ten miles wide, whereas our attack was over steep foothills rising 300 to 400 feet above dry wadi beds, which intersected them.

One Mountain Brigade, R.F.A., and two captured German 4.2 howitzers were attached to the Brigade.

At 11.30 p.m. on September 18th the Battalion moved out, picking up Lewis guns, bombs, etc., from a dump on Castle Hill, which had been formed by the nucleus.

Patrols from A Company had previously been sent out with orders to be in position covering the line of deployment by this hour.

The march to the line of deployment led down a steep rocky ravine, at the mouth of which an enemy barrage had been registered. There was rather more activity than usual on other sections of the front, the enemy putting down one or two short barrages and firing at patrols on our left. In spite of the rocks the Battalion moved fairly quietly, and the Companies reached the position of deployment without accident. At 2 a.m., the hour ordered, they were in position on the southern edge of a plateau some 600 yards wide, on the northern edge of which were our first objectives, Khirbet Kesfa—a mass of ruins and prickly pear protected by sangars and wire, and Point 486—a nest of stone sangars.

To the north of these points was a ravine, the Wadi Ayun, some 300 feet deep, with a Sphinx-shaped hill rising to 502 feet above sea-level at its western, and 627 feet at its eastern summit. The eastern half of this hill, known as Observation Hill, formed the second objective for the Battalion.

Battalion Battle Headquarters was established at Half Way Hill, near Ikba, and touch obtained with troops on each flank, the 7th Regiment "Tirailleurs de Marche" being on the right and the 1/8th Hants on the left. A short enemy bombardment fell near the mouth of the Orwell Wadi, but being on the south-west bank was ineffective.

Our artillery was to bombard our first objectives for five minutes and our second objective for half an hour, then lift to the reverse slopes for half an hour.

At zero, 4.30 a.m., when objects could be seen at about 200 yards, the artillery bombardment opened and the Battalion advanced. Wire had been located in front of Kh. Kesfa, and as soon as the barrage lifted off the first objective, our patrols, two platoons of A Company under Lieuts. G. G. Oliver and D. Green, rushed these points from the flanks. The garrison of Kh. Kesfa fled down the hill to the rear and surrendered to the 1/8th Hants. One automatic rifle was captured in Kh. Kesfa.

Meanwhile the Battalion advanced rapidly across the rock-strewn plateau, being preceded by two regimental Lewis-guns, four Lewis guns of A Company, and four Stokes mortars. All these came into action on the south edge of the ravine to cover the advance of the Battalion, B and D Companies of which plunged into the wadi. An effective bombardment was now falling on the second objective, while the two leading Companies, B under Capt. Fox, M.C., and D under Capt. A. A. Maris, clambered up the rocks on the northern side.

Pausing under the crest to await the lifting of the barrage, the line reformed, and at five minutes past five gained Point 558 according to programme. On account of a precipice on the line of advance, and the dust and smoke, the 1/8th Hants had lost touch with our left, with the result that Point 502 was not attacked from the south-east. Lieut. G. Hughes, D.C.M., however, with a

few men, directed his party towards it, and they captured a machine-gun and ten men who were leaving the hill. These they handed over to the Hants as the enemy showed considerable resistance to the eastward.

Meanwhile B and D Companies swung right and half-right along the crest of the hill, towards Point 627, the artillery barrage preceding them. They thus avoided the wire and caught most of the sangars in enfilade.

Near Point 627 considerable opposition was met with, a fresh company evidently reinforcing from their Battalion Headquarters situated behind the hill, and putting up a barrage of stick-bombs. Capt. Fox, however, engaging the enemy in front, directed a turning movement against both his flanks. On the right flank a platoon of "Tirailleurs de Marche," who arrived under Lieut. Morisson at this moment, co-operated with great effect, preventing the enemy escaping, and shooting them as they left the caves in the precipice in the north-east side of the hill. Another party of about twenty tried to escape along the hill, but a Lewis-gun opening on them killed about ten, whereupon the remainder surrendered. Battalion Headquarters then moved to Point 558.

During the whole of the attack the enemy's shelling was moderately heavy, but owing to the rapidity of the advance usually fell behind our troops. Distances between lines had been kept small (80 paces) in the hope that this would be the case.

At ten minutes past five C Company under Capt. Kilner, M.C., moved across the wadi and supported the attack, two platoons taking part in the final attack, while A Company, who had formed the covering patrols and carrying parties for the trench-mortars, remained in reserve at Kh. Kesfa.

At about 6.30 a.m. A Company moved two platoons to join up with the 1/8th Hants, who moved to Crown Hill.

The captures made by the Battalion were : 5 Officers and 99 other ranks, 3 machine-guns, 2 automatic rifles, a large quantity of bombs, S.A.A., etc., and range-finding equipment, 100 rifles.

Two Germans and 19 Turks were buried.

Our casualties were : 2 Officers (Lieut. N. A. MacKinnon, who was killed in trying to capture an automatic rifle, and 2nd Lieut. P. T. Clarke) and 5 other ranks killed ; 1 Officer (2nd Lieut. W. Emerson) and 28 other ranks wounded.

The attack had been a complete success along the whole front, and the Battalions that were to pass through us and press east were unable to regain touch with the Turks. They occupied their objectives without resistance.

We occupied our positions until the late afternoon, and then withdrew to Wadi Ayun, where we awaited the much-needed water. The next day was spent in salvaging, and on the 22nd the Battalion moved out to the Plain of Sharon, just north of Ras El Ain and near Keفر Kasim, where it acted as a reserve to the guard over the thousands of German and Turkish prisoners collected in the ruins of Ras El Ain and in Wilhelma.

For their conduct in this action Col. Campbell was awarded the D.S.O. and the Order of the Nile (3rd Class), Capt. and Adjutant A. Fair and 2nd Lieut. Hughes, D.C.M., the M.C., and 240473 Sergt. B. W. Richardson, 240235 Pte. F. J. Manning, 242544 Pte. C. J. Raymond, 241112 Pte. T. Tester, 240308 Pte. F. J. Chapman, 240420 Lce.-Corp. J. Clarke, 240490 Pte. F. J. East, 240152 Lce.-Sergt. B. Sale, Military Medals.

The Brigadier thanked the Battalion for its work, and said that when he saw them running like hares for the top of Observation Hill he did not wait to see them arrive, but wired at once "Observation Hill taken."

The week's rest here was very welcome as the weather continued very hot. We heard the news of how sweeping the victory had been, and saw thousands of wearied, starved-looking Turks and Germans passing through. Although the total captures swelled each day, the magnitude of the army's success was only realized when the Commander-in-Chief sent congratulations as follows :—

“I desire to convey to all ranks and classes of the force under my command my admiration and thanks for their great deeds of the past week, and my appreciation of their gallantry and determination which have resulted in the total destruction of the VII. and VIII. Turkish Armies opposed to us. Such a complete victory has seldom been known in the history of war.—ALLENBY, General C.-in-C.”

The following extract from General Allenby's despatches of the 31st October, 1918, gives an idea of the result of this, the final attack :—

“Between September 19th and October 26th 75,000 prisoners have been captured. Of these over 200 are Officers, and 3,500 other ranks are Germans and Austrians. In addition 360 guns have fallen into our hands, and the transport and equipment of three Turkish Armies. In the first three phases of the operations, material and equipment were hastily abandoned by the enemy in the mountainous area extending over 2,500 square miles, whilst in the remaining phases a further advance of over 300 miles has been made. The captures, however, include over 800 machine-guns, 210 motor lorries, 44 motor-cars, some 3,500 animals, 89 railway engines, 468 carriages and trucks. Of these many are unserviceable, but none have been included that are beyond repair.”

At short notice we set out on the 27th September, the first night moving to rejoin the Brigade at Hableh. The next day we reached Kahon, passing a very large convoy of prisoners and a park of captured guns en route. Thence by Kerrar, Zimmarin, and Athlit, a Crusaders' stronghold of impressive size, to Haifa.

Here we bivouacked for four days by the seashore to the west of the busy little town which provided us with a variety of shops and a surprising choice of stores, and also a surprising variety of guards.

Brackish water caused us to move to the Plain of Esdraelon, by the River Kishon, where we camped for several days and varied the time pleasantly by hill climbing and visiting the town and harbour. The traffic on the railway showed some of the prizes of the victory. The bivouac area was given the name Scorpion Camp, for reasons which many will remember.

Our next move was to the seashore on the Bay of Acre, where we spent a very pleasant week.

In the meantime the mounted divisions had been pushing on, and every day brought news of fresh advances and unending captures, causing us to speculate whether we should winter in Aleppo or Alexandretta.

On October 24th we set out for Beirut. The first day took us along the best road in Syria, the hard seashore, to Acre, which every one visited, admiring its mosque and walls and noting the independent air of its inhabitants. Thence we proceeded through Tyre and Sidon, climbing the ladder of Tyre en route. The road was good, the weather fine, and the towns provided native fruit and a great deal of sightseeing. To be in constant sight of the sea was a pleasure, and the sea breeze an unmixed blessing.

As we drew near Beirut the land became more and more fertile, the road better, and the inhabitants lighter skinned.

On October 30th we received news of the Armistice with Turkey, and had visions of being home for Christmas.

Finally came the entry into Beirut. The country had been growing steadily more beautiful. There was no doubt about our welcome in that neighbourhood. In the place of dull sullenness or active dislike, were bright smiles of welcome and cheerful words of greeting from gay-looking women and children. The march through a bright and busy town between heartily cheering crowds, and past the Corps Commander, made a splendid finish to our long trek through barren places.

But our marching was not yet over, and we went on through lovely country to Antura and thence to the beautiful Bay of Junie. A couple of days were enough to exhaust the water here, and we then went to Es Safre where we started to prepare a camp for the winter. Roads and paths were made, tents arrived, and we were preparing for a lengthy stay when news of the Armistice with Germany came to hand, and Christmas at home seemed possible and even probable. The news was celebrated by a display of Véry lights and coloured flares, and a salvo from our trench mortar battery.

Shortly after this we were warned to be ready to move to Ramleh. Speculation was at once roused as to whether it was Ramleh near Jaffa or near Alexandria. It turned out to be the former and that we were to march the 200 miles that lay between us and there. Gloom at once descended on the whole Brigade, for it was obvious from the country we had seen that if it rained on the way down sickness and disease would be rife, and the whole march very fatiguing and possibly disastrous. Having expressed this point of view as strongly as possible we prepared for the march, but the medical authorities vetoed it and on November 18th we moved to Beirut to await ship. Here we had a pleasant camp among the beautiful pine-woods. The town and harbour provided plenty of enter-

tainment and interest, and a few officers and N.C.O.'s visited Damascus and its wonders.

At the end of November the Division passed from the XXI Army Corps, and the Corps Commander issued the following order :—

“I cannot let the 54th Division pass from my command without thanking them one and all for the good work done and help given while with the XXI Corps. The East Anglian Division joined the Corps when the Corps was first formed in August 1917, and your Division played a leading part in the affairs of Gaza in November, and later in driving the enemy back North of Ludd. In the early part of 1918 the 54th Division captured Mejdal Yaba and Ras-el-Ain, and in our recent successful operations the Division, with the ‘Detachement Français de Palestine et Syrie’ carried through the heavy fighting and rapid marching through the foothills on the right flank of the Corps, enabling the other Division of the Corps to capture Tul Keram, Samaria, and Nablus. I am unable to thank each individual Officer and man for all the hard work and hardships so cheerfully borne, but please convey to all your units, Artillery, Engineers, Infantry, M.G.C., A.S.C., R.A.M.C., and the staff of the Brigade, and your own staff my grateful thanks. Yourself I wish to thank particularly for your loyalty and help you have always given me. May good fortune follow this fine Division wherever they go, and I hope they may before long reach their homes happy, with the knowledge that their work has been well done, and deserving well of their country.—EDWARD F. BULFIN, Lieut.-General.”

CHAPTER VIII.

BACK IN EGYPT.

ON November 28th the Battalion embarked on H.M.T. "Ellence" for Kantara, en route for Cairo. Without adventure we reached Cairo on the 30th, but were immediately visited by an epidemic of influenza that had already laid half the other units low and now did likewise to us.

The strength of the Battalion, which on the 1st November had been 25 Officers, and 630 other ranks, on the 30th was 19 Officers, and 487 other ranks. The Battalion War Diary states:—

"The rate of sickness greatly increased after the rains; a low fever—sometimes malaria, sometimes a form of influenza—being the commonest causes. The Brigade had the lowest average of sickness during the month, and the Battalion the lowest in the Brigade, but the highest rate since January 1916" (after the evacuation of Gallipoli).

After a few days we went into camp at Helmieh, near Cairo, and prepared for a real homely Christmas. A reinforcement of 500 sick and detached, etc., who had accumulated at Kantara during the march up, joined us, and we settled down to peace conditions.

On December 20th the 54th Division marched through Old Cairo and past the Commander-in-Chief in Opera House Square. All points of vantage on the line of march were crowded; the windows and balconies full, and the roofs lined. The streets were gay with bunting, and the whole march seemed a fitting end to our active service. To the Egyptian population, stirring uneasily and showing an ugly temper, it was clear evidence that the English

forces were not wholly destroyed, and were still capable of enforcing order. It seemed to make an impression at the time, but later events showed it was not a very deep or lasting one. In fact, just about this time the Egyptian populace were said to have given a ready belief to the statement that we had been driven back into Egypt.

On Christmas Eve we celebrated Christmas Day. We were to be on duty on Christmas Day itself, and as this took most of the Battalion and scattered them in small groups over a wide area, nothing could have been done then.

The failure of our native contractor to erect the large tent and supply the extra crockery, etc., seemed likely to put an end to our arrangements for a Battalion assembly. The 1/8th Hants, however, kindly lent us their gorgeous marquee, and we were able to carry on.

The usual extra fare and hearty meals made the day more like an English Christmas. Two eggs with the breakfast bacon, all the day's rations for lunch, a dinner of soup, pork with three vegetables, and Yorkshire pudding, plum pudding, dessert, with an issue of rum, cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco, put every one in a good mood to enjoy the evening concert and cinema show. At the dinner the Officers reversed the usual order of things by acting as mess orderlies.

On December 29th Capt. A. Fair, M.C., relinquished his appointment as Adjutant, and Capt. C. M. Fyson, who had acted as Assistant Adjutant for some months, was appointed in his place.

The early days of the year were saddened by the death of one who had identified himself since the commencement of the war with every phase of the life of the Battalion. Regimental-Sergeant-Major J. J. French, D.C.M., had been with the Battalion in all its actions, except the last, and had carried out the exacting duties of an R.-S.-M. in the field with a tact, energy, and a devotion to the

men's welfare, that won the admiration of all ranks. In his endurance of hardships and contempt of danger, and in his regard for the good name of the Battalion, he stood second to none. Every Officer and man felt that he died as he would have wished, after he had given his best and fullest to his Regiment and his country. He was laid to rest in the beautiful English burial ground at Ghizeh.

Demobilization started very slowly in January, 4 Officers and 92 other ranks leaving, but leapt ahead in February, when nearly 300 left us. Educational training struggled with fair success against a decreasing personnel and increasing duties. These consisted chiefly of guards over a large camp of Turkish prisoners at Heliopolis.

The old Battalion that had lived and worked and fought as a unit for the past three and a half years began to break up very quickly. Pleasure at the prospect of seeing again the shores of England and our homes and dear ones was somewhat lessened by the thought of separating from friends who had become closer than brothers during that time. The Battalion had lived like one big family, with little crime, a good record, and general good feeling. It was a wrench to know we were about to make a final separation. Little of this was, however, visible as the drafts went off gaily and amid general rejoicing.

On the 24th February we moved into a camp at Heliopolis, taking over the whole of the guards and the prisoners' camps.

The rioting in Egypt put an end to all demobilization for a time, and the Army was promptly called on to protect property and restore order. The whole time was then occupied in providing large garrisons and sentry-groups. Some patrolled Cairo in motor lorries; some occupied uninviting police stations in the heart of the native quarter, and some were dispatched to villages.

Officers were continually called on to sit on courts-martial that tried rioters and criminals. The whole Battalion buzzed with activity.

Fortunately, we never had to come into contact with the mob. "The Lucky Suffolks" had their luck to the last, and at the beginning of April were accommodated in the finest barracks in Egypt, the Abbas Hilmi at Abbassia.

On March the 14th the Battalion was transferred from the 54th Division to the Force in Egypt, and on the 17th the Commanding Officer received the following letter :—

" Headquarters,
" 54th Division.
" 17/3/19.

" MY DEAR CAMPBELL,—As your Battalion has gone to the Force in Egypt for good, I am writing to thank you and them for all they have done. I have known them for four years, and they have always done well, and never better than on last 19th September. The dash with which they took Observation Hill set the pace for the whole attack. I am very sorry to part with them, and wish them all the best of luck and safe home.—Yours very sincerely, S. W. HARE, Major-General."

On March the 25th the Battalion was selected to provide a Guard of Honour for General Allenby on his return from England, and Capt. H. C. Wolton, M.C., and 100 men had the honour of seeing the Chief return, and his greeting by the Egyptian Cabinet.

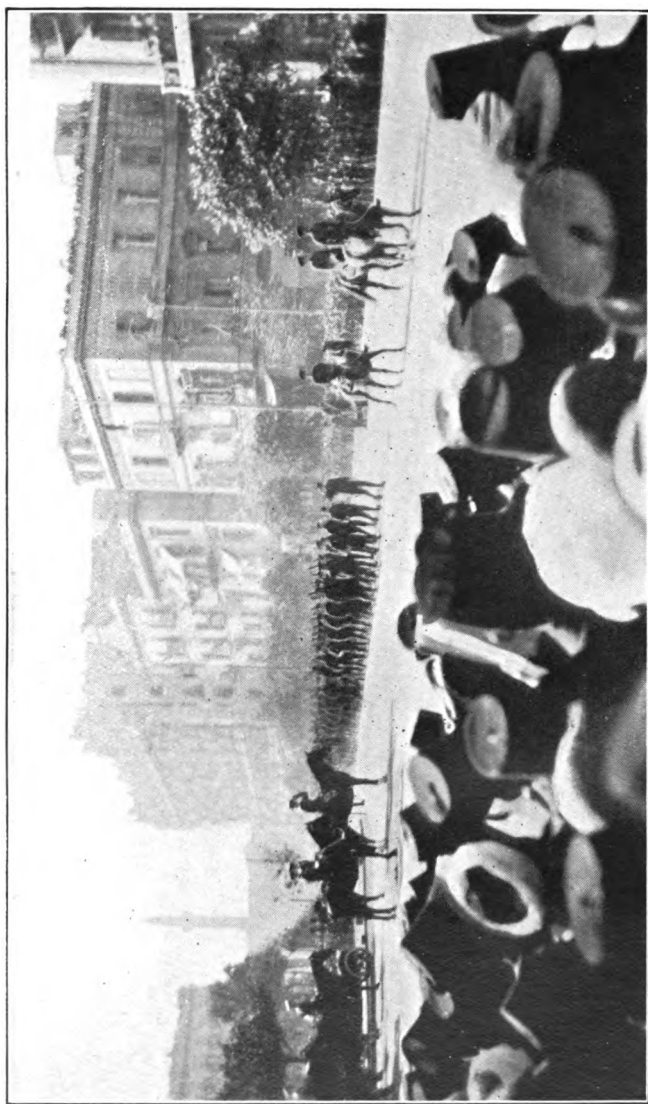
The following day the Padre (the Rev. E. D. Rennison, C.F.) and Capt. H. C. Wolton left to inspect and photograph the graves of the men who were buried in Palestine and Syria. Through their efforts the greater number

were located and visited, and photographs sent to their next of kin.

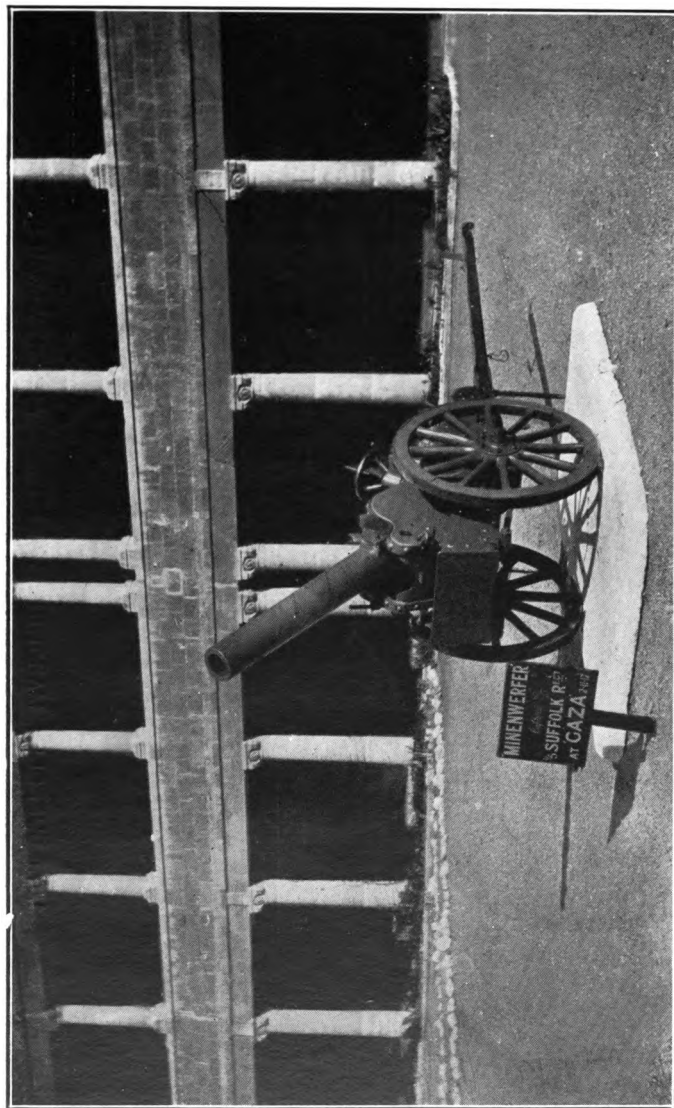
On Sunday, April 13th, the Battalion paraded at Cairo Garrison Church. This was the first time we had paraded in a church since leaving Thetford in 1915. During this month demobilization ceased altogether.

On May 5th the Commander-in-Chief inspected the Battalion and sent a message of appreciation, and on May 26th gave high praise to a Guard of Honour under Capt. E. D. Wolton and Lieut. E. C. Ladell, which had paraded at Zeitoun.

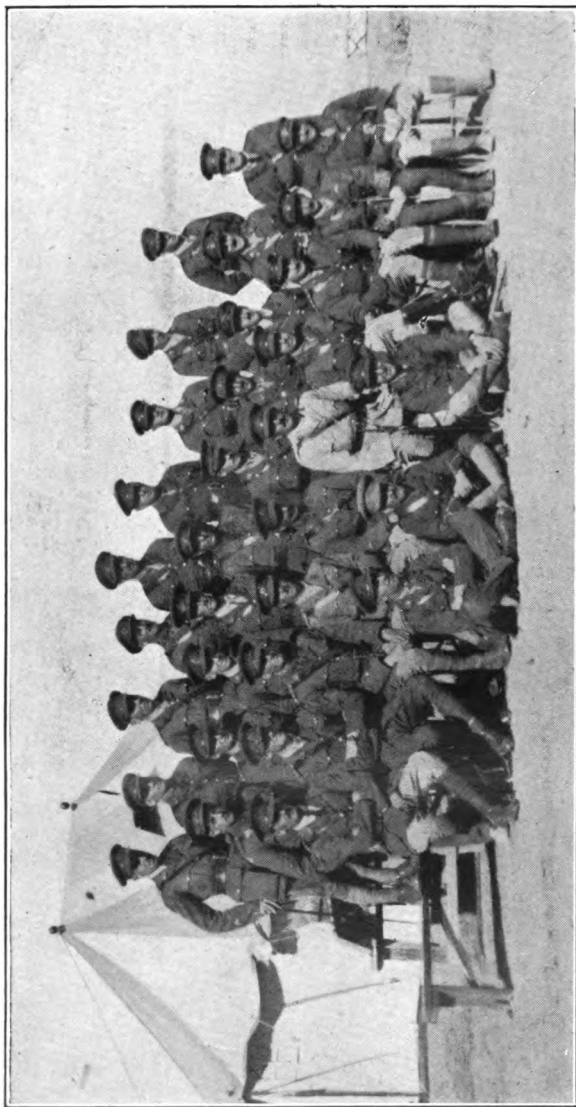
In May a draft of 200 men arrived, and 100 men of the 5th Bedfords were transferred to us. Fifteen officers and 306 other ranks were demobilized during May and June, and at the beginning of July. Most of the 1916 original Officers had gone, and practically all the 1915 men. The 1916 men were retained until reorganization or voluntary recruiting could fill their places, but the old Battalion had now ceased to exist.



1/5TH SUFFOLKS MARCHING PAST LORD ALLENBY, CAIRO.



ABBAS HILMI BARRACKS, CAIRO.



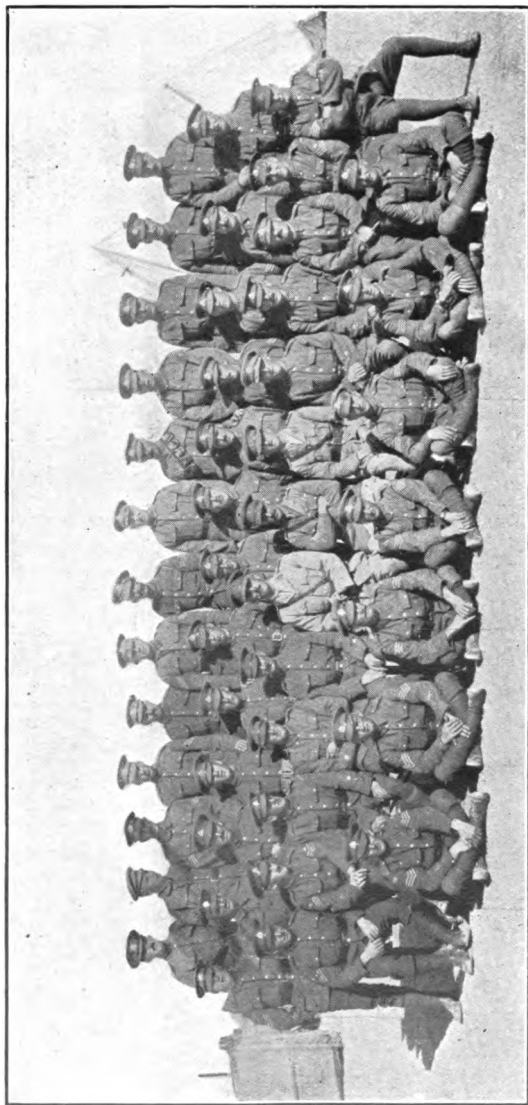
GROUP OF OFFICERS, CAIRO.

*Back Row (left to right).—*Lieut. C. M. Fyson, 2nd Lieut. A. Balfour, Lieut. Meade, Lieut. S. G. Kemp, 2nd Lieut. Griffith, Lieut. Gorsuch, Lieut. Wheatcroft, 2nd Lieut. Rowlandson, 2nd Lieut. Walker.

*Second Row.—*Capt. L. B. Fox, M.C., Lieut. T. P. Rodgers, Lieut. F. Bentley, 2nd Lieut. Currington, Lieut. A. R. Alston, Lieut. A. Green, M.C., Lieut. A. H. Godfrey, 2nd Lieut. F. A. Davis, 2nd Lieut. H. B. Holgate, The Rev. E. D. Renison.

*Third Row.—*Lieut. G. G. Oliver, Capt. F. C. Wolton, M.C., Capt. E. D. Wolton, Capt. and Adjutant A. Fair, M.C., Lieut.-Col. W. M. Campbell, D.S.O., M.C., Major C. Hill, M.C., Major B. E. Oliver, Capt. A. Maris, Capt. G. Kilner, M.C., Lieut. and Q.-M. B. H. Double.

*Front Row.—*2nd Lieut. Baylis, 2nd Lieut. Paige, 2nd Lieut. Laddell.



GROUP OF SERGEANTS, CAIRO.

Back Row (left to right).—Sergts. Freeman, M.M., Overnall, Bowman, M.M., Barnes, Quantrill, D.C.M., Sale, Ellis, Richardson, M.M., Skinner, Smith, Sale, M.M., Wilding, Foster.

Second Row.—Sergts. Keightley, Seely, Garnham, Page, Youngs, Lark, Harvey, D.C.M., Larner, Ruggles, Weavers, Balmer, Robinson, Bush.

Third Row.—C.-Q.-M. Sergts. Lee, Westoby, Allies, C.-S.-M. Culley, R.-Q.-M.-S. Spall, Major Hill, M.C., Lieut.-Col. Campbell, D.S.O., M.C., Capt. and Adjutant Fair, M.C., R.-S.-M. Forder, C.-S.-M. Ambrose, C.-Q.-M. Sergts. Clark, Bowel, Marlow.

Front Row.—Sergts. Reeson, D.C.M., Pearson, D.C.M., Rogers, Clarke, Beevis, Briggs, Best.

CHAPTER IX.

EVENTS AFTER THE WAR.

ALTHOUGH the story told in the preceding pages ends naturally with the close of the Great War and the return of the men who, as soldiers, formed that living organism—a Regiment—to their duties as civilians in the greater organism—the State—yet the history of the 1/5th Suffolks would not be complete without some reference to the ceremonies which marked the termination of the war-service of the Battalion.

In the Peace Procession of July 20th, 1919, the Colours were carried amongst the massed Colours of the Territorial Units of the Kingdom.

The procession, composed of representatives of all branches of the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force, and of our Allies, started from Hyde Park, proceeded to Whitehall, saluting there the Cenotaph and the memory of the Glorious Dead, and then with Colours flying marched past His Majesty the King, and the Chiefs of the Allied Forces.

In November of the same year the cadre of the Battalion arrived home from Egypt. At short notice local Officers and men escorted the Colours to the station, Bury St. Edmunds, and handed them over to the Officer Commanding the cadre, as the last representative of the mobilized Battalion. From the station they proceeded to the Corn Hill, where they were officially welcomed home by the Mayor on behalf of the borough. So ended more than five years of mobilized service, of which four years and five months had been spent overseas.

On February 27th, 1920, a Reunion Dinner was held at the Corn Exchange, Bury St. Edmunds.

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This proved to be the last representative gathering of the Battalion, and was an overwhelming success. About 800 of all ranks, drawn from all parts of the county, attended, and great rejoicing was evinced in the meeting of old friends.

On March 15th, 1920, the Suffolk Regimental Cenotaph, erected by subscriptions from all units of the Suffolk Regiment, was unveiled at the Regimental Church of St. Mary, Bury St. Edmunds. On its base are engraved, besides previous Battle Honours, the names of all the theatres of operations in which the Regiment served, and it encloses a book containing the names of the fallen. At this impressive ceremony, which many representatives of the 5th Battalion attended, the Colours of all the Suffolk Battalions were carried, and those of some of the Service Battalions of the Regiment were hung on the walls of the chapel in which the Cenotaph stands.

At the end of 1921 the post-war Battalion was disembodied. This Battalion, under the command of Major B. E. Oliver, had been open for recruiting purposes for some months, but the area allotted to it did not include the districts of Beccles and Bungay as was the case before the War.

This is not the place to discuss the merits or demerits of the new Territorial scheme. Suffice it to say that the decision of the Army Council on grounds of economy that the Battalion be disembodied was received with deep regret. It thereupon became necessary to dispose of the Battalion property. At a meeting of Officers who had served or were serving with the Battalion it was decided to place in the hands of trustees the Battalion plate and all remaining regimental funds, a large proportion of which has been expended in the publication of this book. The war trophies were handed over to the Officer Commanding the Stowmarket Company, now forming part of

the 4th Battalion, with the proviso that they should be handed back to the 5th Battalion should it ever be re-formed.

On Sunday, December 4th, 1921, the Colours of the Battalion were laid up in St. Mary's Church, Bury St. Edmunds, this ceremony marking the conclusion of sixty-two years of service. A large party of Officers and men accompanied the Colours to the church where they were placed upon the altar. Before the sermon the Colours were taken to the Cenotaph and placed in company with the Colours of the 7th, 8th, 9th, 12th, and 1st Garrison Battalions, guarding with their folds the empty tomb of the 7,000 soldiers of the Suffolk Regiment. Taking as his text "O sword put up thyself into the scabbard, rest and be still" (Jeremiah xlvii. 6), the Vicar, Dr. Gray, recounted the history of the Battalion since 1859.

His words may perhaps be quoted as a fitting epilogue to this book: "For five fiery and then frost-bound months they suffered the ghastly rigours of Gallipoli with an endurance which reads like a chapter from the Apostle of the Gentiles—in weariness and in painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and in thirst, in cold and nakedness, in disease more cruel than the bullet, and never out of the range of screeching shells. Such a record is best told as it was borne, in the patient dignity of silence . . . Of its service in Sinai, Palestine, and Syria, Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby has said (referring to the 54th Division): 'They fought through those burning deserts, through the rocky mountains of Judea, and through the swamps of Syria; these East Anglian men can literally be said to have gone through fire and water.' The 5th Battalion is disbanded, but its Colours will remain, a token of faithful service and duty well performed."

AFTERWORD.

It is impossible to conclude such a record as this without an expression of the heavy debt we owe to those gallant comrades of ours who gave their lives in the endeavour to hand on, untarnished and undiminished, the freedom that is the heritage of Suffolk men.

To those who sleep on the austere shores of Gallipoli, beneath the palms of Egypt, or upon the stony hillsides of the Holy Land, do our thoughts ever turn in sorrow, gratitude, and pride.

May theirs have been no vain sacrifice.

“Solemn the drums thrill, Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres;
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

“They grow not old, as we who are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn;
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.”

APPENDIX I.

ROLL OF HONOUR

OF

1/5th BATTALION THE SUFFOLK REGIMENT
(T.F.).

TOTAL 19 OFFICERS AND 269 OTHER RANKS.

ABBREVIATIONS.

"d. of w." .. died of wounds. "d." .. died. "k. in a." .. killed in action.
 "p. of w." .. prisoner of war.

OFFICERS.

NAME.	RANK.	HOW DIED.	DATE.	THEATRE OF WAR.
Alston, G. K.	2nd Lieut.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
Armes, W. M.	Lieut.-Col. (T.D.)	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
Catchpole, T. J.	Capt.	k. in a.	3-11-17	Palestine
Clarke, P. T.	2nd Lieut.	k. in a.	19-9-18	Palestine
Cory, C. W.	2nd Lieut.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
Elvin, A. G.	2nd Lieut.	d.	13-10-17	Palestine
Haddock, W. T.	Lieut.	d.	30-1-16	Egypt
Haynes, F. E.	Lieut.	d.	20-4-18	Palestine
Hinnell, T. S.	2nd Lieut.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
Kell, W. F. S.	2nd Lieut.	d. of w.	23-7-17	Palestine
Kendle, R. H.	Major (T.D.)	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
Ledward, G. W.	Capt.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
Mackinnon, N. A.	Lieut.	k. in a.	19-9-18	Palestine
Rowley, J. R.	Capt.	k. in a.	3-11-17	Palestine
Ryley, H. B.	Lieut.	k. in a.	15-12-17	Palestine
Taylor, T. O.	Lieut.	d. of w.	4-11-17	Palestine
Wollaston, L. H.	Lieut.-Col.	Air raid when home on leave March, 1918.		
Wolton, O. B.	2nd Lieut.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
Wormold, O. E.	Capt.	d.	2-2-17	Home

ROLL OF HONOUR—*cont.*

OTHER RANKS.

REGTL. NO.	NAME.	RANK.	HOW. DIED.	DATE.	THEATRE OF WAR.
240308	Abbott, H.	Pte.	d.	22-2-18	Egypt
1500	Albon, E. J.	L/Sgt.	d.	1-10-15	Gallipoli
1652	Aldous, J. F.	Pte.	d. of w.	23-8-15	Gallipoli
1997	Aldous, M.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
1755	Ambrose, G.	Pte.	k. in a.	20-9-15	Gallipoli
2543	Amey, J.	Pte.	d.	12-10-15	Gallipoli
242119	Appleby, J.	Pte.	d.	30-4-17	Home
241338	Arbin, H. W.	Pte.	d. of w.	17-12-17	Palestine
2069	Arbon, P. W.	Pte.	d. of w.	26-9-15	Gallipoli
240612	Avis, W. W.	Pte.	k. in a.	27-11-17	Palestine
3436	Bacon, E.	Pte.	d.	26-6-15	Home
2832	Barber, F. H.	Pte.	d.	18-12-14	Home
45608	Barker, S. W.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
1241	Barnard, C. H.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
240372	Barnard, S. W.	L/Cpl.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
241963	Barson, T.	Pte.	d.	5-3-17	Home
240617	Baylis, C. M.	Pte.	d. of w.	10-11-17	Egypt
6337	Bennett, P. W.	Pte.	d.	13-2-17	Home
50811	Bennett, W. G.	Pte.	k. in a.	9-6-18	Palestine
241041	Bentley, H.	Pte.	d. of w.	12-11-17	Egypt
2358	Bloomfield, C.	Pte.	d. of w.	5-9-15	Gallipoli
2208	Bloomfield, F.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
2400	Bloomfield, L.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
240653	Blythe, H.	Pte.	k. in a.	19-4-17	Palestine
9767	Bossingham, J. H.	Pte.	d. of w.	17-12-17	Palestine
240718	Bowers, R. M.	Pte.	—	31-7-17	Egypt
5853	Bowyer, C. E.	Pte.	d.	13-1-17	Home
242550	Briggs, A. J.	Pte.	d. of w.	20-4-17	Palestine
241121	Brown, G.	Pte.	k. in a.	27-11-17	Palestine
240756	Brown, G. W.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
240913	Brunger, S.	Cpl.	k. in a.	15-12-17	Palestine
241064	Bull, A. E.	Pte.	—	8-12-18	Palestine
241250	Bullard, A.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
240813	Bumpstead, A.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
240318	Bumpstead, H.	Pte.	k. in a.	1-5-17	Palestine
241123	Bunn, W.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
50772	Burman, J. H. W.	Pte.	k. in a.	19-9-18	Palestine
2971	Burroughs, J. V.	Cpl.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli

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ROLL OF HONOUR.—*cont.*

REGTL. NO.	NAME.	RANK.	HOW DIED.	DATE.	THEATRE OF WAR.
2500	Butcher, S.	L/Cpl.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
2200	Byham, A. R.	Pte.	k. in a.	6-9-15	Gallipoli
3386	Challice, F. W.	Cpl.	d.	23-10-15	Gallipoli
2329	Challis, V.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
2206	Chaplin, E.	Pte.	d.	23-11-15	Home
240147	Chilvers, H.	Pte.	k. in a.	19-9-18	Palestine
2485	Chinery, C. A.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
1284	Chisnall, H.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
240287	Churchyard, W.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
240830	Cidling, L.	Pte.	d.	7-7-19	Home
240222	Clark, E.	Pte.	d. of w.	16-12-17	Palestine
241746	Clark, T. J.	Pte.	d.	14-3-17	Home
2236	Clarke, F. T.	L/Cpl.	d.	19-3-16	Egypt
1953	Clarke, H.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
2417	Clarke, S.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
240746	Cooke, B.	Pte.	d. of w.	7-12-17	Egypt
2038	Copping, S. J. G.	L/Cpl.	d. of w.	14-8-15	Gallipoli
45499	Cossey, R. H. B.	Pte.	d. of w.	4-11-17	Palestine
4889	Cowley, W. C.	Pte.	d.	10-8-16	Home
241097	Crick, C. H.	Pte.	k. in a.	15-12-17	Palestine
2698	Crick, F.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
50130	Cross, C. G.	Pte.	d.	30-12-17	At Sea
13683	Cross, H. C.	Pte.	d. of w.	18-10-17	Egypt
2093	Cross-Heffer, C. J.	L/Cpl.	k. in a.	20-9-15	Gallipoli
240288	Cushion, A.	Pte.	d. of w.	18-10-17	Egypt
1850	Day, E.	Pte.	d. of w.	14-8-15	Gallipoli
178	Day, G. E.	Sergt.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
1343	Dearsley, J.	L/Cpl.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
34581	Deighton, F.	Pte.	d.	30-12-17	At Sea
2033	Dickason, W. R.	Pte.	k. in a.	6-9-15	Gallipoli
1563	Dickerson, F.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
240163	Diggins, A.	Pte.	k. in a.	27-11-17	Palestine
1165	Drake, W. G.	Pte.	d. of w.	12-9-15	Gallipoli
240243	Drewell, W.	L/Cpl.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
240625	Duce, W.	Sergt.	k. in a.	3-11-17	Palestine
2221	Dunnett, W.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
2211	Durrant, H. F.	Pte.	d.	17-9-16	P. of W. (Turkey)
241115	Dyer, C.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
1815	Eighteen, F.	Pte.	d.	10-3-16	Home

ROLL OF HONOUR.—*cont.*

REGTL. NO.	NAME.	RANK.	HOW. DIED.	DATE.	THEATRE OF WAR.
64683	Elliott, B. J.	Pte.	d.	12-7-19	Egypt
1287	Emmerson, B. C.	Cpl.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
3283	Fairhead, A. E.	Pte.	d.	14-10-15	Home
1564	Fairweather, P. R.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
240008	Farrant, A. R.	Sergt.	d.	7-3-19	Home
2203	Farrant, H.	Pte.	k. in a.	25-8-15	Gallipoli
241325	Felgate, H. C.	C.-S.-M.	k. in a.	15-12-17	Palestine
240503	Felton, B. C.	Pte.	d.	11-10-18	Egypt
2630	Finch, S. J.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
240828	Ford, S.	Pte.	d. of w.	16-10-17	Egypt
240953	Forder, C. H.	Pte.	k. in a.	29-6-17	Palestine
290887	Freeman, G.	Pte.	d. of w.	5-11-17	Palestine
240012	French, J. J. (D.C.M.)	R.-M.-S.	d.	5-1-19	Egypt
9751	Frost, S. A.	Pte.	d.	30-12-17	At Sea
240304	Frost, T.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
50559	Gallon, J. W.	Pte.	d. of w.	3-11-17	Palestine
2695	Gardner, H.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
45604	Gates, A.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
241167	George, E.	Pte.	d. of w.	10-4-17	Egypt
241317	Gibbs, W. A.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
240264	Glyde, J. L.	Pte.	—	25-11-18	Egypt
24108	Goddard, B. E.	Pte.	d.	30-12-17	At Sea
240465	Goody, F.	Pte.	k. in a.	19-4-17	Palestine
18350	Gostling, W.	Pte.	d.	30-12-17	At Sea
240726	Gould, C. R.	Pte.	d. of w.	27-3-17	Egypt
242581	Graham, W. R.	Pte.	k. in a.	19-4-17	Palestine
1499	Green, J. E. V.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
2426	Green, W.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
2313	Griggs, H.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
2434	Griggs, W.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
241141	Grimwood, G. J.	Pte.	k. in a.	5-11-17	Palestine
2985	Hammond, T.	Pte.	d.	29-2-16	Home
2291	Hargraves, A. J.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
240252	Harper, D.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
242532	Harrison, F.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
242579	Harrod, F.	Pte.	k. in a.	5-11-17	Palestine
240930	Hawes, S.	L/Cpl.	d.	28-10-18	Home
2523	Hearn, R.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
2251	Henley, G.	Pte.	k. in a.	7-9-15	Gallipoli
50852	Hewish, P. F.	Pte.	d.	5-10-18	Palestine

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ROLL OF HONOUR.—*cont.*

REGTL. NO.	NAME.	RANK.	HOW DIED.	DATE.	THEATRE OF WAR.
240550	Hickford, H.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
19164	Hill, W.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
2099	Hindry, H.	Cpl.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
2156	Hinnels, F. A.	Pte.	k. in a.	17-10-15	Gallipoli
243277	Hiskett, F. J.	Pte.	d.	4-9-19	Home
241063	Hood, C. W.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
241153	Hopes, F.	Pte.	d. of w.	27-11-17	Palestine
240659	Howard, W. S.	Pte.	k. in a.	1-5-17	Palestine
3182	Hubbard, C. A.	Pte.	d.	4-5-16	Egypt
2202	Hume, P.	Pte.	d. of w.	14-9-15	Gallipoli
1838	Hume, W.	Pte.	k. in a.	3-11-15	Gallipoli
241042	Humphreys, W. T.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
1482	Hunnibell, F. G.	L/Cpl.	d.	19-12-15	Gallipoli
984	Hunt, B.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
112	Hunt, W. S.	C.-S.-M.	k. in a.	20-9-15	Gallipoli
1877	Ince, T.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
241105	Jackson, W. A.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
240590	Jay, J. F.	L/Cpl.	k. in a.	19-9-18	Palestine
2556	Jolly, T. F.	Pte.	d.	9-9-15	Gallipoli
242555	Jones, E. G.	L/Cpl.	d. of w.	28-11-17	Egypt
240425	Keeble, F.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
2416	Keeble, H. J.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
2483	Keeler, E. R.	Pte.	d. of w.	20-8-15	Gallipoli
1936	Kent, F. J.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
240645	Kiddy, C.	L/Sgt.	d. of w.	16-7-17	Egypt
240061	Knight, J.	Pte.	d. of w.	22-4-17	Egypt
240687	Knock, W.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
240792	Lambert, A. E.	Pte.	k. in a.	15-12-17	Palestine
1275	Lambert, A.	L/Cpl.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
1834	Lambert, R.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
50846	Larkins, G. R.	Pte.	d.	25-8-18	Egypt
240337	Leathers, J. C.	Pte.	d. of w.	30-11-17	Egypt
240390	Leonard, J.	Pte.	d.	7-7-17	Home
1640	Levett, J.	Pte.	d. of w.	13-10-15	Gallipoli
240527	Lillistone, W.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
2176	Lofts, A. E.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
8609	Mabbott, G. W.	Cpl.	d.	30-12-17	At Sea
330310	Mace, T. H.	Pte.	k. in a.	9-3-18	Palestine
505032	Mann, W. H.	Pte.	k. in a.	15-12-17	Palestine
240357	Mansfield, G.	Pte.	k. in a.	27-11-17	Palestine

ROLL OF HONOUR.—*cont.*

REGTL. NO.	NAME.	RANK.	HOW DIED.	DATE.	THEATRE OF WAR.
240602	Martin, A.	Pte.	d. of w.	28-11-17	Egypt
2502	Martin, B.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
1346	Martin, H.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
1261	Maskell, A.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
3384	Mead, W.	Pte.	d.	28-10-15	Gallipoli
2995	Middleditch, E. H.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
241209	Middleditch, F. C.	Pte.	—	18-8-19	Home
4040	Mills, T. W.	Pte.	d.	28-6-16	Home
2052	Mingay, A.	Pte.	k. in a.	7-10-15	Gallipoli
2406	Mulley, W.	Pte.	k. in a.	8-10-15	Gallipoli
16849	Murfitt, C.	Pte.	d.	23-10-18	Egypt
240615	Nickolson, R. J.	Pte.	d.	8-2-17	Palestine
1582	Nickson, B.	Pte.	d. of w.	31-10-15	Gallipoli
1484	Nunn, H.	Pte.	d. of w.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
240752	Nunn, S.	Pte.	k. in a.	19-9-18	Palestine
2711	Offord, A. W.	Pte.	k. in a.	25-8-15	Gallipoli
50518	Ogden, W. G.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
242571	Oldfield, J.	Pte.	d.	12-7-17	Egypt
2387	Oliver, G.	L/Cpl.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
2544	Orbell, H.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
45642	Organ, O.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
240478	Osborne, M. S.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
8899	Parfey, A.	Pte.	d.	30-12-17	At Sea
241189	Parish, J. F. A.	Pte.	d. of w.	25-12-17	Palestine
2151	Parker, H.	Pte.	d.	22-11-15	Gallipoli
242537	Paternoster, A.	Pte.	k. in a.	29-6-17	Palestine
240333	Pawsey, W.	Pte.	k. in a.	3-11-17	Palestine
241240	Peach, J. E.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
240392	Peckham, W.	Pte.	k. in a.	4-11-17	Palestine
50554	Pendry, W.	Pte.	k. in a.	15-12-17	Palestine
2450	Pettitt, D. W.	Sgt.	d. of w.	8-10-15	Gallipoli
240300	Pilgrim, F.	Pte.	d. of w.	27-3-17	Palestine
2292	Polden, H.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
240158	Poulson, E. G.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
1585	Prentice, F.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
240807	Pryke, G.	Pte.	d.	5-12-17	Egypt
240370	Purland, A.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
2334	Raphael, F. W.	Pte.	k. in a.	15-11-15	Gallipoli
241237	Reed, J. R.	Pte.	d. of w.	27-3-17	Palestine
2048	Reeman, E. M.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli

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ROLL OF HONOUR.—*cont.*

REGTL. NO.	NAME.	RANK.	HOW DIED.	DATE.	THEATRE OF WAR.
2217	Revans, G.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
12062	Reynolds, A. W.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
45646	Reynolds, B. H.	Pte.	d. of w.	9-11-17	Egypt
240667	Reynolds, S. E.	Pte.	d. of w.	28-3-17	Egypt
240688	Reynolds, T.	Pte.	d. of w.	16-12-17	Palestine
2425	Rice, H.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
1141	Roe, H.	Pte.	d.	31-8-15	At Sea
2354	Rogers, C.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
221	Rose, C. S.	L/Cpl.	d. of w.	13-8-15	Gallipoli
12029	Rout, F.	Pte.	d. of w.	23-12-17	Palestine
202708	Ruff, E.	Pte.	d.	5-10-18	Egypt
240221	Rumbelow, W.	Pte.	d. of w.	5-5-17	Egypt
202691	Russell, T. E.	Pte.	k. in a.	19-9-18	Palestine
202700	Sadler, C. G.	Pte.	k. in a.	5-11-17	Palestine
240278	Sadler, W. C.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
2163	Sargeant, E.	Pte.	—	5-9-15	Gallipoli
1553	Scarff, S. H.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
241076	Sharp, H.	Pte.	d.	11-10-18	Palestine
240973	Simmons, F.	Pte.	k. in a.	21-11-17	Palestine
3876	Simpson, S.	Pte.	d.	3-5-16	Home
241326	Smith, F. F.	Sergt.	k. in a.	16-12-17	Palestine
2083	Smith, F. W.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
240596	Smith, G. W.	L/Cpl.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
241330	Smith, H. W.	Pte.	k. in a.	19-4-17	Palestine
3604	Smith, H.	L/Cpl.	d.	15-9-16	Egypt
1923	Smith, S.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
240544	Smith, S. M.	L/Cpl.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
240675	Smith, S. R.	Pte.	k. in a.	27-11-17	Palestine
4139	Smith, W. S.	Pte.	d.	1-5-16	Home
240178	Smith, W.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
1454	Smith, W.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
2828	Snell, E. W.	L/Cpl.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
240265	Sore, P.	Pte.	k. in a.	4-11-17	Palestine
2106	Spalding, F.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
2801	Spencer, A.	L/Cpl.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
1529	Stacey, F.	Pte.	d. of w.	3-9-15	Gallipoli
242560	Stannard, A. W.	A/Cpl.	k. in a.	19-4-17	Palestine
2079	Steggles, E.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
3/8737	Stevenson, H. A. E.	Pte.	d.	30-12-17	At Sea
2326	Stiff, G.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli

ROLL OF HONOUR.—*cont.*

REGTL. NO.	NAME.	RANK.	HOW DIED.	DATE.	THEATRE OF WAR.
242577	Stiff, J.	Pte.	k. in a.	15-12-17	Palestine
1830	Sturgeon, F. C.	Pte.	d. of w.	11-9-15	Gallipoli
1878	Swallow, W.	Pte.	k. in a.	15-10-15	Gallipoli
45455	Sweet, W. G.	Pte.	d.	30-12-17	At Sea
45616	Taylor, E.	Pte.	k. in a.	2-11-17	Palestine
240331	Taylor, J.	Pte.	d. of w.	21-4-17	Palestine
241266	Thirtle, A. W.	Pte.	d.	7-3-19	Egypt
241004	Thurlow, H.	Pte.	k. in a.	15-12-17	Palestine
240996	Tovell, B. L.	Pte.	k. in a.	19-4-17	Palestine
240428	Tuffin, A. A.	Pte.	d. of w.	27-3-17	Palestine
240217	Tuffs, L. J.	Pte.	d. of w.	27-3-17	Palestine
1413	Twitchett, G.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
1883	Unwin, F.	Pte.	d.	12-8-14	Home
4274	Walladge, C.	Pte.	d.	11-6-16	Home
1250	Ward, C. B.	L/Cpl.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
1271	Ward, E.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
2173	Watson, H. J.	Pte.	d.	24-12-15	Egypt
45964	Webb, B. E.	Pte.	d.	30-12-17	At Sea
45639	Weinert, F. C.	Pte.	d. of w.	19-1-18	Palestine
468	Wells, A. J.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
1982	Whiting, D. S.	Pte.	d. of w.	1-10-15	Gallipoli
2518	Wiggen, J. H.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
3647	Wilcox, A. J. V.	Pte.	d.	22-2-16	Home
1808	Willis, G. E.	Pte.	k. in a.	12-8-15	Gallipoli
2534	Winter, A.	Pte.	k. in a.	3-9-15	Gallipoli
4388	Witt, W.	Pte.	d.	21-4-16	Home
202723	Wix, E. R.	Pte.	d.	2-12-17	Egypt
1734	Wordley, R.	Pte.	k. in a.	20-9-15	Gallipoli
240371	Wright, H.	Cpl.	k. in a.	3-11-17	Palestine

APPENDIX II.

HONOURS AND AWARDS.

Distinguished Service Order.

T/Lieut.-Col. W. M. CAMPBELL, M.C.

Military Cross.

T/Lieut.-Col. W. M. CAMPBELL.	Capt. (A/Major) H. T. COPINGER
Capt. A. FAIR.	HILL.
Capt. L. B. FOX.	2nd Lieut. G. HUGHES, D.C.M.
T/Lieut. (A/Capt.) H. C. GOLD-	2nd Lieut. (A/Capt.) G. KILNER.
SMITH.	Capt. H. C. WOLTON.
Lieut. D. GREEN.	Capt. the Rev. PIERREPONT ED-
	WARDS (C.F.).

Distinguished Conduct Medal.

240172 Pte. W. ALLUM.	240580 Corpl. J. W. PEARSON.
241800 Sergt. R. CLARKE.	240482 L/Corpl. W. REESON.
240018 C.-S.-M. (A/R.-S.-M.) J. J.	241293 Pte. W. M. ROSLING.
FRENCH.	

Military Medal.

240531 L/Sergt. (A/Sergt.) S. P.	240924 Pte. W. HICKFORD.
BOWMAN.	241112 Pte. L. LISTER.
240308 Pte. F. G. CHAPMAN.	240235 Pte. F. J. MANNING.
240420 L/Corpl. J. CLARKE.	241075 Pte. H. C. MINGAY.
240490 Pte. F. J. EAST.	241044 Pte. B. MURRELL.
241337 Pte. W. J. FARROW.	240919 Pte. J. PALFREY.
240583 A/Sergt. A. S. W. FREE-	242544 Pte. C. J. RAYMOND.
MAN.	240473 Sergt. B. W. RICHARDSON.
240411 Corpl. (A/L/Sergt.) L. H.	240152 L/Corpl. B. SALE.
GOREHAM.	240197 Pte. S. L. WELLS.
240639 Pte. F. HAYWARD.	240083 Sergt. R. B. WAGGE.

Meritorious Service Medal.

1254 R.-Q.-M.-S. B. H. DOUBLE.

Mentioned in Dispatches.

Lieut. A. R. ALSTON.	240409 C.-S.-M. W. CULLEY.
Capt. E. M. ASHTON.	240093 R.-Q.-M.-S. B. H. DOUBLE.
T/Lieut.-Col. W. M. CAMPBELL, M.C.	240677 A/R.-S.-M. G. FORDER.
Capt. E. CRICHTON (R.A.M.C., attached).	240472 L/Sergt. F. FOSTER.
Lieut. (A/Capt.) C. M. FYSON.	240583 Corpl. (L/Sergt.) H. S. W. FREEMAN.
Lieut. A. H. GODFREY.	T.R.2 C.-S.-M. J. J. FRENCH (twice).
Capt. (A/Major) H. T. COPINGER HILL.	943 Corpl. F. HARVEY.
Lieut. (T/Capt.) G. KILNER.	240626 Pte. E. J. HOLMES.
Lieut. (A/Capt.) G. G. OLIVER.	240310 L/Corpl. R. INCE.
Lieut. (T/Capt.) A. S. PARKER.	240606 A/Sergt. J. W. LOVEDAY.
Lieut. D. C. W. SMITH.	240539 A/R.-Q.-M.-S. A. E. MAR- LOW.
240118 Pte. H. W. BANTICK.	240482 L/Corpl. W. REESON.
240424 Corpl. H. BEEVIS.	240593 Sergt. (C.-Q.-M.-S.) G. H. SIMPSON.
2379 L/Corpl. H. BURGESS.	240199 L/Corpl. G. SMITH.
240057 Sergt. H. CODLING.	

FOREIGN ORDERS AND DECORATIONS.

Croix de Guerre.

240011 Sergt. F. BUTCHER.

Order of the Nile (4th Class).

T/Lieut.-Col. W. M. CAMPBELL, D.S.O., M.C.

Serbian Medal.

1199 L/Corpl. H. PLUMB (gold).

587 Pte. H. TAYLOR (silver).

Cross of Karageorge (1st Class).

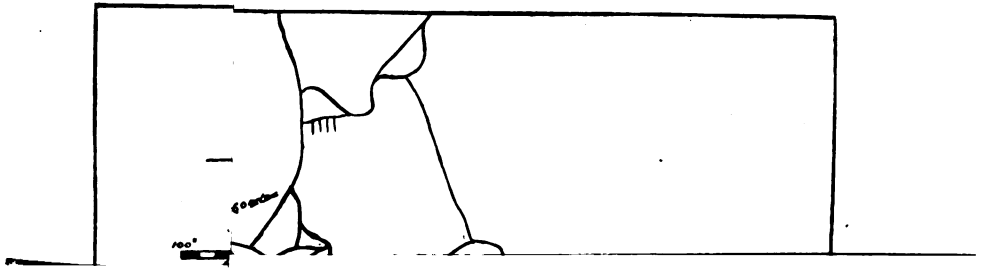
240050 Sergt. F. HARVEY.

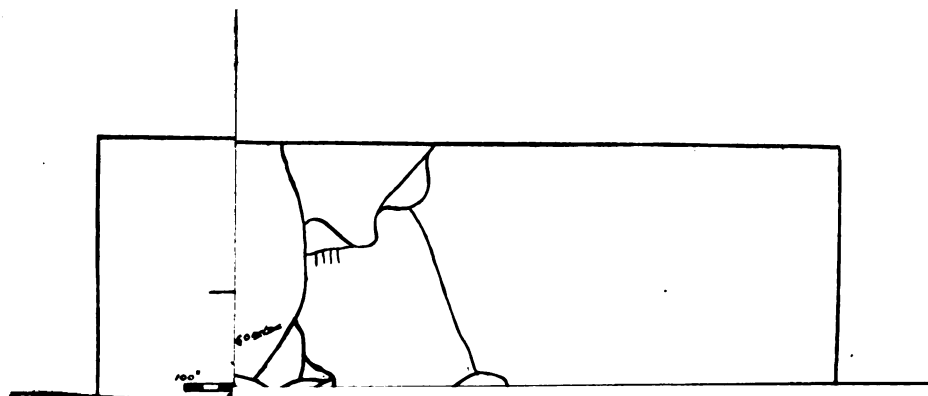
Russian Medal of St. George (3rd Class Silver).

2347 Pte. W. E. ARBON.

Roumanian Medaille Barbatie Si Credinta (3rd Class).

240580 Sergt. J. PEARSON.

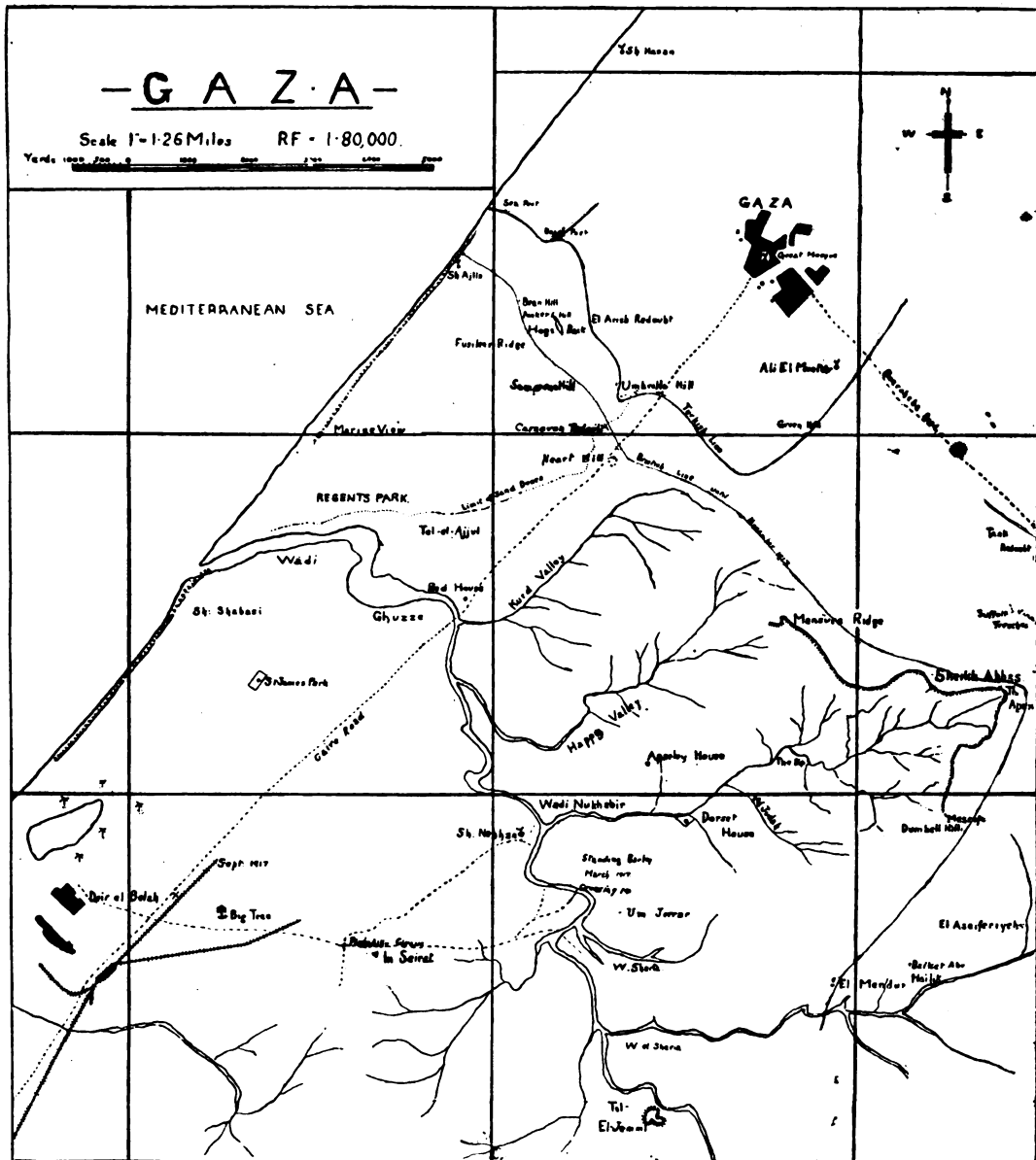
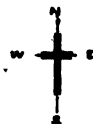




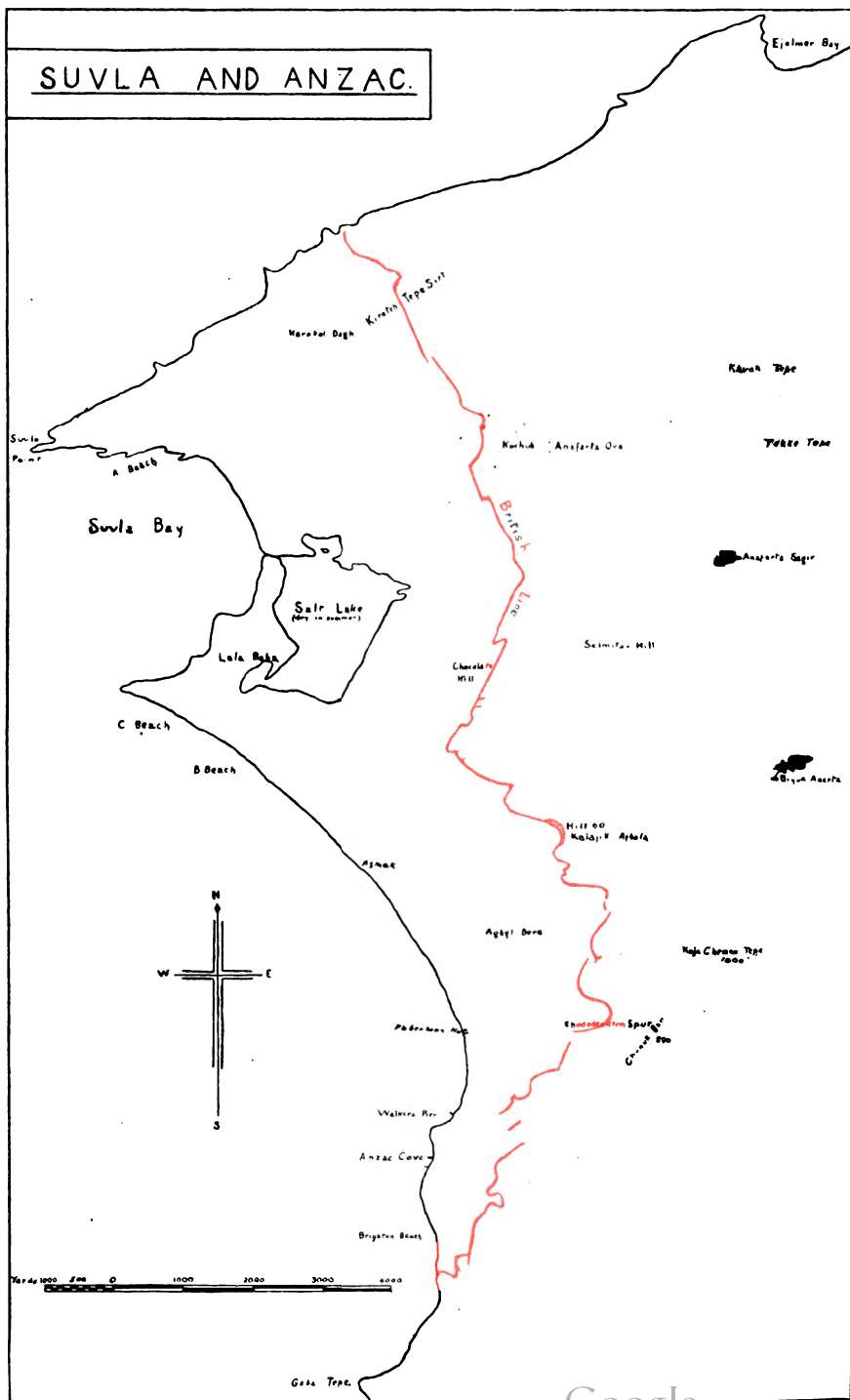
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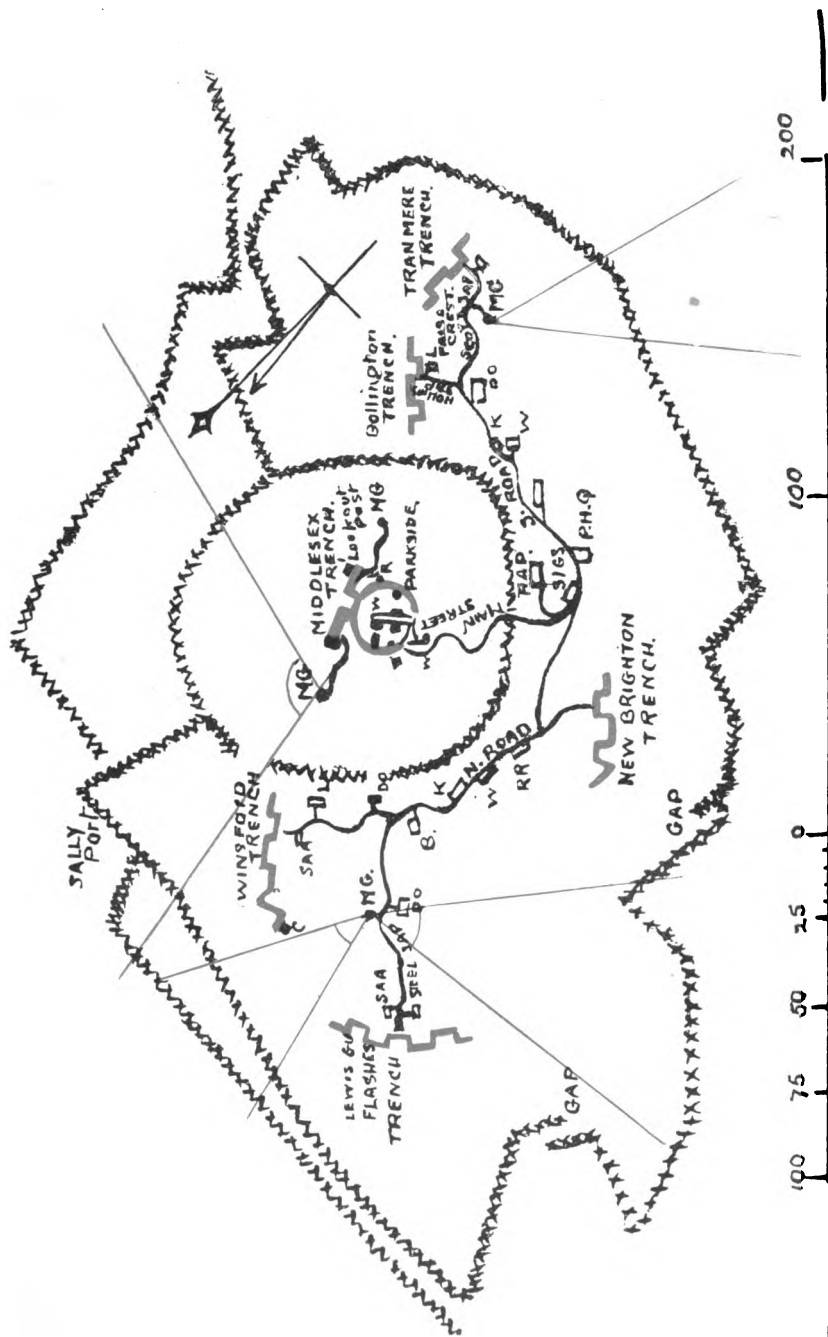
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700						
500						
300						
100						
0						



SUVLA AND ANZAC.



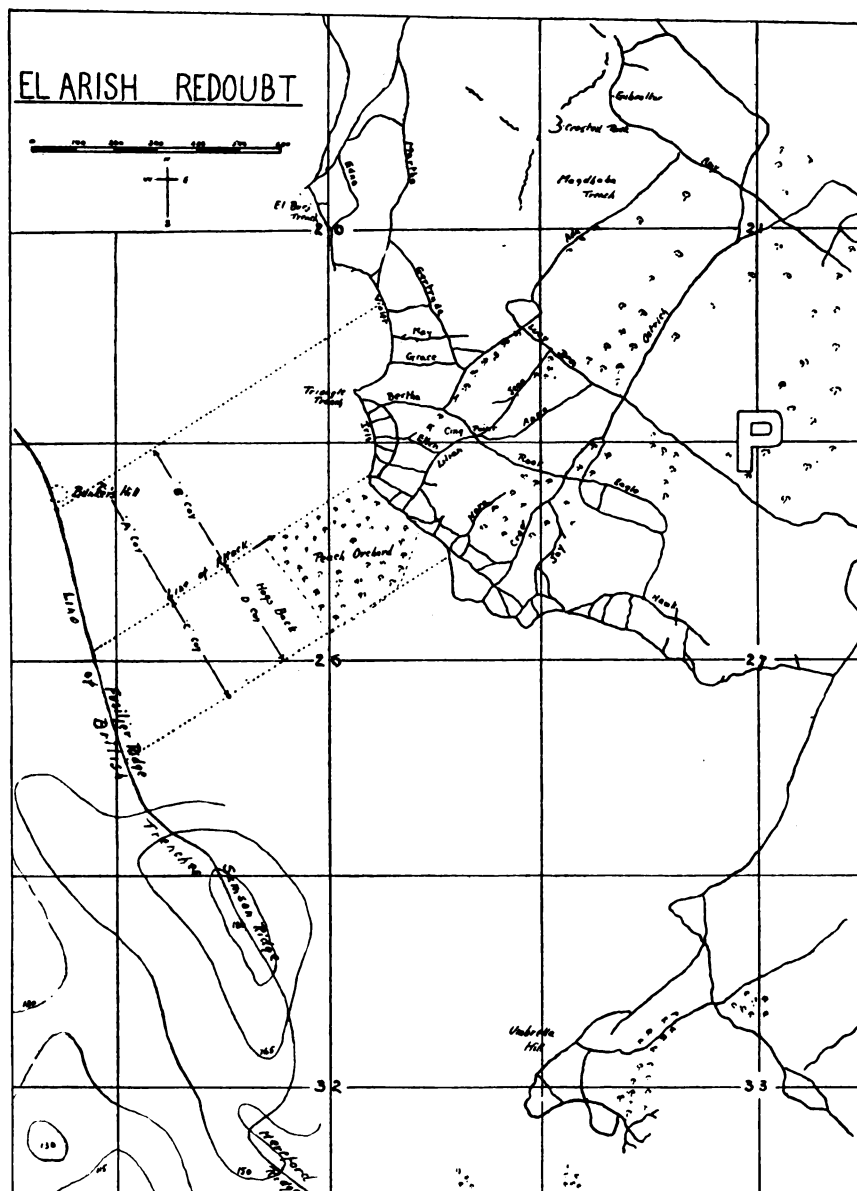


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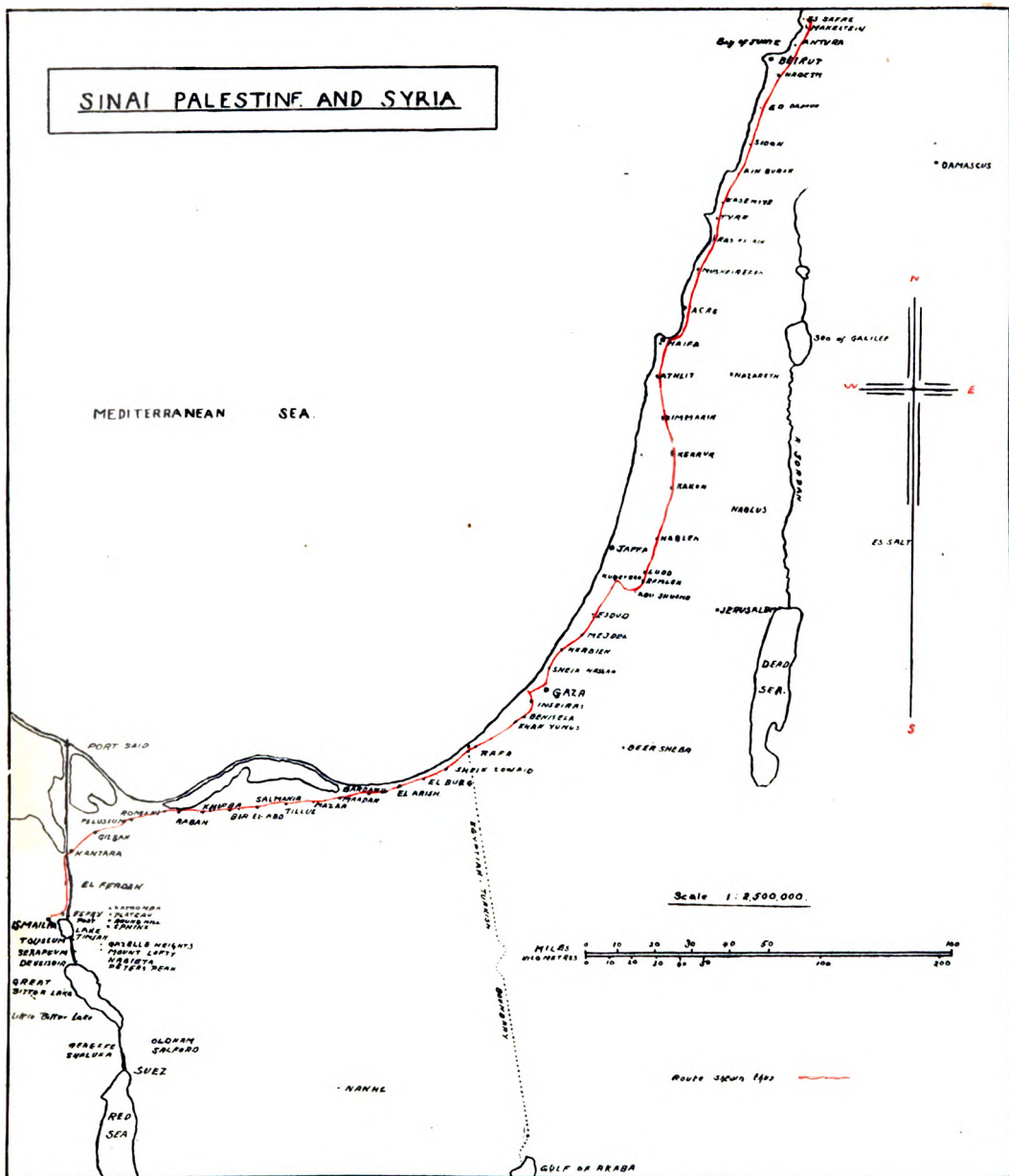
REFERENCES -

- PERIMETER WIRES. XXXXX.
- MACHINE GUNS MG.
- WATER W.
- DUGOUT DD.
- LATRINE L.
- REG. AID POST. R.A.P.

Round-Hill. II.



SINAI PALESTINE AND SYRIA



Battle of 19th September 1918. Showing frontage of 163 Bde and permanent line field 1918 Mch-Spt.

